

Heartland Genealogy Blog Posts

October 2024

Marcia Crawford Philbrick



Table of Contents

[Death Non Battle](#)
[Treeshare Update](#)
[Simplifying Tasks with AI](#)
[Friday Find](#)
[Saturday Tidbits](#)
[Saturday Night Genealogy Fun](#)
[Benjamin Duggins Sells Land](#)
[Purple Heart](#)
[DNA Study](#)
[Duggins Land Issue](#)
[Friday Find](#)
[Saturday Tidbits](#)
[Saturday Night Genealogy Fun](#)
[Power Settings](#)
[Purple Heart](#)
[Origins](#)
[Benjamin A. Duggins](#)
[Friday Find](#)
[Saturday Tidbits](#)
[Saturday Night Genealogy Fun](#)
[Henry Duggins](#)
[War News](#)
[Dots Redo](#)
[William Duggins Will](#)
[Friday Find](#)
[Saturday Tidbits](#)
[Saturday Night Genealogy Fun](#)
[Isaac Duggins Deed](#)
[War News](#)
[SMOMs Works](#)
[Piecing Together a Family](#)

Death Non Battle

Marrion Lee Owens

Marrion Lee Owens, known as Lee, was born on August 8, 1931, in Centralia, Kansas. A bright and promising young man, Lee was deeply rooted in his community and church, and he displayed a commitment to service from an early age. He graduated from Centralia High School in 1949, where he actively participated in the band as a cornetist and was involved in various church activities. After high school, Lee pursued higher education at Kansas State College in Manhattan, where he studied engineering and architecture. He would have been entering his junior year and was enrolled in the ROTC training program, reflecting his aspirations for a military career.

In the summer of 1951, Lee joined the United States Marine Corps, preparing for further training at Camp Pendleton, California. His dedication to his country and community was evident in his pursuit of military service, which would have led to his commission as an officer upon completing his education.

Tragically, Lee's life was cut short at the age of 19. On July 22, 1951, while on his first weekend leave from Camp Pendleton, he visited family in Oceanside, California. While swimming at the beach, he was caught in a dangerous undertow and drowned. Despite being a strong swimmer, the swift currents and the deep hole near the shore claimed his life.

The news of Lee's untimely death deeply affected his family and community. His body was eventually recovered, and plans were made for his burial in Centralia. On August 6, 1951, the community gathered to honor Lee's life and service at a funeral held in the Centralia Congregational Church. The ceremony was marked by heartfelt tributes from Rev. Glenn L. Argo and a touching letter from Lee's chaplain at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot. The chaplain's letter expressed admiration for Lee's leadership qualities and the profound impact his life had, despite its brevity.

Lee's final resting place is in the Centralia Cemetery, where he was laid to rest with full military honors. A Marine honor guard, a color guard from the local American Legion, and his friends served as pallbearers. His legacy lives on in the memories of his family, friends, and community, as well as in the acknowledgment of his sacrifice in the service of his country.

Though his life was brief, Marrion Lee Owens' dedication to his community, faith, and nation left a lasting impact on those who knew him, and he is remembered as a young man full of potential and promise.

The above narrative was composed by ChatGPT using information from the following sources:

Find a Grave – Marrion Lee “Lee” Owens Jr.

- Birth: August 8, 1931
- Death: July 22, 1951
- Burial: Centralia Cemetery, Centralia, Nemaha County, Kansas, USA

The San Bernardino County Sun (San Bernardino, California) – July 23, 1951

- Article titled “Reservist Drowns”
- Details of Marrion Lee Owens drowning at Oceanside, California.

The Courier Tribune (Seneca, KS) – August 2, 1951

- Article titled “Plan Service At Centralia For Cpl. Lee Owens, U.S. Marines”
- Details of the recovery of Lee Owens' body and arrangements for his funeral.

The Courier Tribune (Seneca, KS) – July 26, 1951

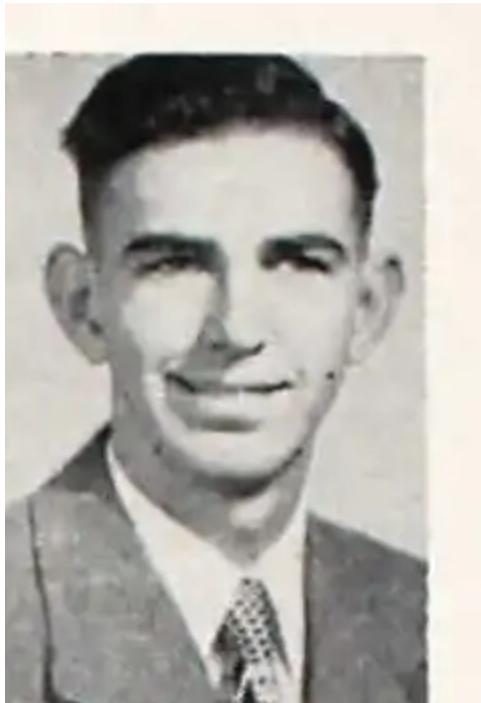
- Article titled “Undertow Is Fatal To Centralia Marine”
- Background on Marrion Lee Owens’ life, education, military service, and the circumstances of his drowning.

The Courier Tribune (Seneca, KS) – August 6, 1951

- Article titled “Honor Corporal Marrion Lee Owens”
- Details of the funeral service, tributes, and the involvement of the Marine Corps honor guard.

1951 Kansas State University Yearbook

- Listing Marrion L. Owens as a sophomore in engineering and architecture at Kansas State University.



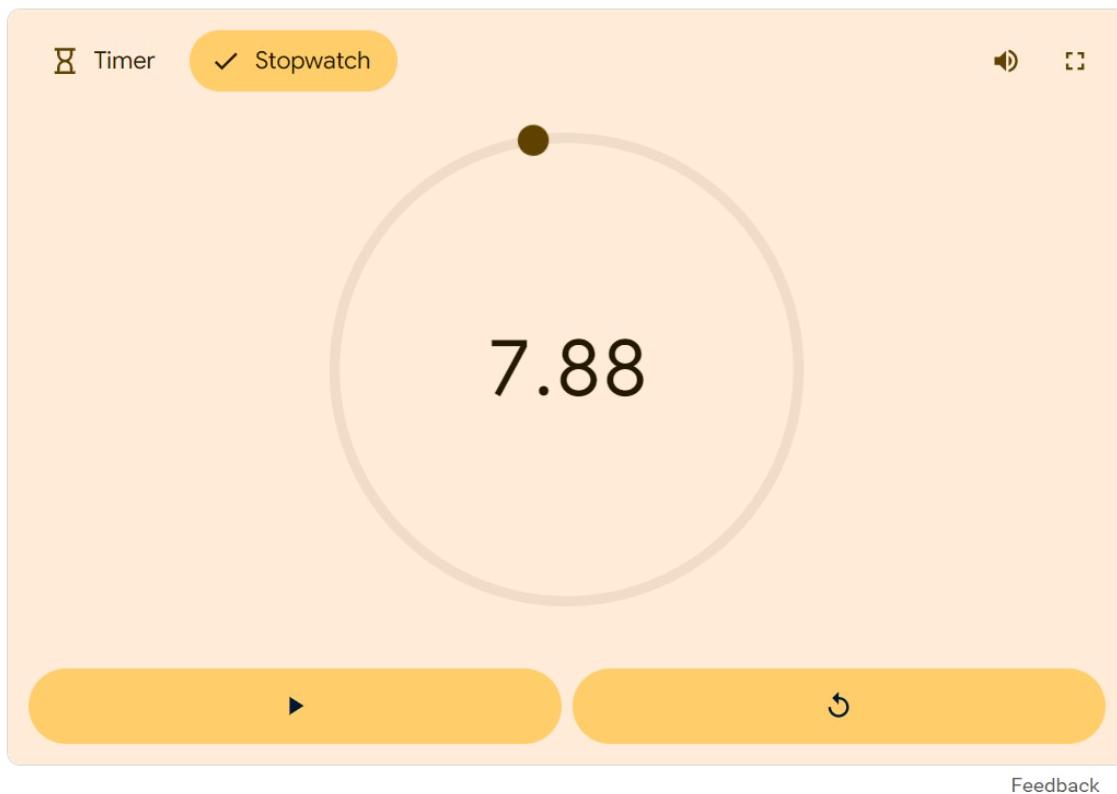
Treeshare Update

Are you a RootsMagic user with a tree on Ancestry? If so, you'll be pleased to hear that RootsMagic's TreeShare feature is working again.

Not long ago, I posted about the issues I was experiencing with TreeShare. Several readers mentioned they had stopped using it altogether. Instead, they either rely on Ancestry to store their work or upload a new tree to Ancestry after making significant changes. Neither of those options worked well for me, so I decided to give TreeShare another try. Thankfully, I discovered that it's now functioning smoothly.

For example, transferring a 1910 residence fact from RootsMagic to Ancestry took only about 8 seconds!

The screenshot shows the TreeShare for Ancestry application window. At the top, there's a toolbar with 'Edit RootsMagic person' (pencil icon), 'Show on Ancestry' (green plus icon), and 'Options' (gear icon). On the right, there are 'Log out' and 'Create H' buttons. Below the toolbar, the interface is divided into two main sections: 'RootsMagic' on the left and 'Ancestry' on the right. Both sections show a grid of genealogical data. In the RootsMagic section, a居住 (Residence) fact for 'Chase, Mary Anne-25582' is selected, showing details like '1910' and 'Dayton, Montgomery, Ohio, United States'. In the Ancestry section, a corresponding residence fact for the same individual is shown with the same details. The interface includes a sidebar on the left with a list of names and a search bar at the bottom. Buttons at the bottom right allow users to 'Accept changes' or 'Cancel changes'.



So, I'm back to my usual routine:

- Using RootsMagic as my primary tree file
- Adding sources from various platforms, including Ancestry, newspapers, and FamilySearch
- Updating my Ancestry tree with new people and events via TreeShare
- Leveraging RootsMagic's FamilySearch connection to download descendants of specific families, followed by detailed research to document their histories

Simplifying Tasks with AI

Have you ever wished that Artificial Intelligence (AI) could handle time-consuming edits in Word or Excel for you? I recently faced this when trying to reverse the order of a document that I use to schedule blog posts. Instead of manually reordering my September and October posts, I turned to [ChatGPT](https://chatgpt.com/)See https://chatgpt.com/. for help—and it worked!



Attached is a list of blog posts for September and starting in October. It is in chronological order. Can you take this information and put it in reverse chronological order with the October dates first followed by the September dates?



Here is the list of blog posts rearranged in reverse chronological order, with October dates first followed by September dates:

October Blog Posts:

- Friday, Oct 4 – Friday Find – Mentzer Marriages (Henry Mentzer)
- Thursday, Oct 3
- Wednesday, Oct 2 – Benjamin Duggins
- Tuesday, Oct 1

September Blog Posts:

- Monday, Sept 30 – Duggins Land Issue
- Sunday, Sept 29
- Saturday, Sept 28 – Saturday Tidbits – Draft-12 May 1941
- Friday, Sept 27 – Friday Find Duggins / IGI
- Thursday, Sept 26 – Benjamin Duggins Sells Land
- Wednesday, Sept 25 – Henry Duggins to Benjamin Duggins Deed
- Tuesday, Sept 24 – Purple Heart – James F. ter

Knowing that I try to put an index to my blog on a Wikitree space, I realized that I might be able to use ChatGPT to create the index for me instead of my typing from my bullet journal. Thus, I gave it the address of my blog and asked it to create an index for August.

Using the site heartlandgenealogy.org, can you create a list of blog posts for August 2024 in reverse chronological order?



Searched 3 sites ▾

I found some blog posts for August 2024 on the **Heartland Genealogy** site. Here's a list of the posts from that month in **reverse chronological order**:

1. **Saturday Tidbits** – August 31, 2024
2. **Friday Find** – August 30, 2024
3. **Leeds Method** – August 29, 2024
4. **Wandering** – August 28, 2024
5. **Purple Heart** – August 27, 2024
6. **William A. Duggins** – August 26, 2024(Heartland Genealogy)(Heartland Genealogy).

At first glance, it appears that ChatGPT just timed out in creating the list. However, my **Wandering** blog post was about a trip to the sunflower fields that I took in September. Thus, it could not have been posted in August.



Searched 2 sites ▾

Here's the complete list of blog posts for August 2024 from **Heartland Genealogy**, arranged in reverse chronological order:

1. **Saturday Tidbits** – August 31, 2024
2. **Friday Find** – August 30, 2024
3. **Leeds Method** – August 29, 2024
4. **Wandering** – August 28, 2024

Realizing that ChatGPT struggled with my initial prompt, I thought about how I could improve my prompt to get better results. When I provided a link to the August index from my blog instead of a link to the front page of my blog, ChatGPT did a better job of creating my index.



Searched 1 site ▾

Here is a list of blog posts for **August 2024** from Heartland Genealogy, arranged in reverse chronological order:

1. [Saturday Tidbits – August 31, 2024](#)
2. [Friday Find – August 30, 2024](#)
3. [Crawford Find – August 29, 2024](#)
4. [Citizenship Records – August 28, 2024](#)
5. [Purple Heart – August 27, 2024](#)
6. [AI Graphic Generation – August 26, 2024](#)
7. [Saturday Tidbits – August 24, 2024](#)
8. [Friday Find – August 23, 2024](#)
9. [John Minnick Obituary – August 22, 2024](#)
10. [Peter and Mary Minnick – August 21, 2024](#)

For more details, you can visit [Heartland Genealogy's August 2024 blog posts](#)(Heartland Genealogy).



Since ChatGPT did not give me a list for the entire month, I started investigating my blog to see if I could figure out how to again improve my prompt. That's when I realized that ChatGPT was stopping at the bottom of the page and not following the link to 'Older Posts'.

2) What record collections are on your TO-DO LIST, ...

CONTINUE READING →

Older posts

/ Newer posts

After giving ChatGPT similar prompts for page 2, 3 and 4 of my August index, I had a fairly complete list. A quick scan of the results revealed that it missed the posts for August 11th. I found this post at the bottom of page 2.

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

ON AUGUST 11, 2024 / BY MARCIA CRAWFORD PHILBRICK
/ IN SATURDAYNIGHTGENEALOGYFUN / EDIT

Yes, ChatGPT was not 100% correct with these lists. However, the time spent proof-reading and editing the results is minimal compared to the time required to create the list by hand! Thank you ChatGPT!

Friday Find

Mentzer Marriages

Have you ever found handwritten notes about family marriages in your files and wondered how to use them to track down the original documents?

Today's discovery comes from notes likely taken during a visit to Yates Center and the Woodson County Courthouse. These notes pertain to the marriage of Henry Mentzer. See <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/KHPN-PCD..>

Reg. of Marriages

Henry Mentzer 28 1st marriage
Yates Center farmer American
father George Mentzer
mother Emma Haunuck

May Dutton 25
teacher American
father Charles Dutton
mother Annie Roth

6/25/1903 Yates Center by J G Slick

Knowing that FamilySearch has digitized many county records, I searched their site to see what was available for Woodson County, Kansas. While not all of the county's marriage records have been digitized, they have been indexed, making it easier to locate the relevant information.

▼ United States, Kansas, Woodson - Vital records (5)

Marriage records, 1860-1922

Author: Kansas. Probate Court (Woodson County); Woodson County (Kansas). County Clerk; Kansas. County Court (Woodson County)

Woodson County, Kansas marriage

Woodson County, Kansas, marriages 1860-1985

Author: Call, Linda Chandler; Corbet, Dolores (Dolores Smith); Dewey, Vivian (Vivian Goodyear); Mark, Wilma (Wilma Roberts)

Woodson County, KS, marriages 1987-1994

Author: Woodson County, Kansas, Genealogy Society (Yates Center, Kansas)

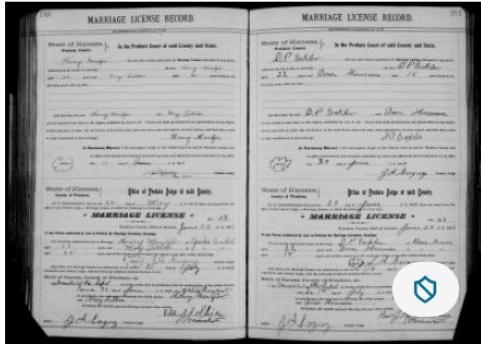
Film/Digital Notes

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (DGS)	Format
Marriage records: v. A-D 1860-1891 (July)	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1428817 Items 2-5	4665194	
Marriage records: v. E-G 1891 (Jul)-1904 (Dec)	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1428859	4665195	
Marriage records: v. H-J 1904 (Dec)-1917 (Jul)	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1428860	7579723	
Marriage records: v. K 1917 (Aug)-1922 (Dec)	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1428861 Item 1	7579724	

For instance, I quickly found the 1903 marriage record for Henry Mentzer, which included the original image of the document.

Henry Mentzer

Marriage • Kansas County Marriages, 1855-1911

[SAVE](#)
[EDIT](#)
[SHARE](#)

[VIEW ORIGINAL DOCUMENT](#)

Document Information



Collection Information

Name **Henry Mentzer**

Sex **Male**

Age **28 years**

Birth Year (Estimated) **1875**

Spouse's Name **May Litton**

Spouse's Sex **Female**

Spouse's Age **25 years**

Spouse's Birth Year (Estimated) **1878**

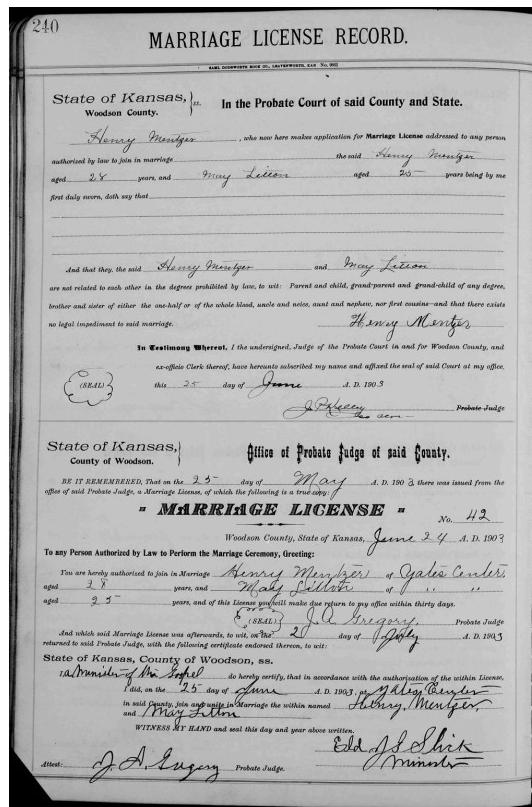
Event Type **Marriage**

Event Date **25 June 1903**

Event Place **Woodson, Kansas, United States**

Certificate Number **Page 240**

Page Number **240**



Woodson County, Kansas, Marriage Records, vol. G:240, Henry Mentzer-May Litton, 2 Jul 1903; digital image, "Kansas County Marriages, 1840-1935," FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/>); See <https://familysearch.org/>; accessed 18 January 2016).

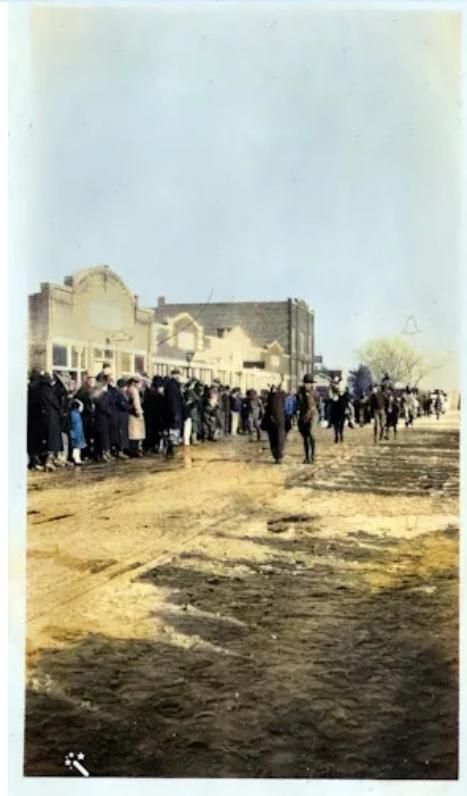
These handwritten notes guided me to both the original marriage license for Henry, showcasing the value of even the smallest genealogical clues.

Saturday Tidbits

Do you have a stack of old photos that not only deserve to be shared but also have stories waiting to be uncovered?

That's exactly the situation for some recently acquired photographs at the Nemaha County Historical Society. These images capture the spirit of one or more Christmas parades, offering a glimpse into festive celebrations of the past. They also provide valuable clues that help date some of the historic buildings on Main Street in Seneca.









A search of the Seneca newspapers suggests that these pictures are from two parades. Both of these parades likely occurred in December 1937.

Below is a narrative about this parade:

A Christmas Celebration in Seneca: The Story of Santa Claus and His Reindeer Parade

In the bustling town of Seneca, Kansas, excitement filled the air as the local Chamber of Commerce announced a special event that would make this Christmas unforgettable. Santa Claus himself was coming to town, and this year, he wasn't coming alone—he was bringing genuine, live reindeer.

For years, children and adults alike had seen pictures of reindeer, but how many had seen a real one, up close and in the flesh? This year, the Chamber of Commerce, led by A.J. Wempe, promised

something truly special: Santa's sleigh, pulled by real, moss-eating reindeer, was set to arrive on December 15th. The anticipation grew as the townspeople prepared for what was shaping up to be the most magical Christmas celebration yet.

The newspapers were abuzz with the news. Articles detailed how the reindeer, known scientifically as *Rangifer tarandus* of the family Cervidae, were more than just a curiosity—they were indispensable to the Laplanders of Northern Europe, used for everything from transportation to dairy production. But to the children of Seneca, these reindeer were simply Santa's helpers, the mystical creatures who pulled his sleigh from the North Pole to deliver presents around the world.

Despite some skepticism and rumors that the reindeer might not be real, the town's spirit remained unbroken. Old Eagle Eye, the Courier-Tribune's ace reporter, was quick to debunk any doubts, confirming that the reindeer were indeed genuine and not mere stuffed animals. The city's preparations continued in earnest, with new strings of lights illuminating Main Street, creating a festive atmosphere that would last well into the New Year.

On the appointed day, the town was in full celebration mode. Schools were encouraged to let out early so children could witness the grand arrival of Santa Claus, his reindeer, and a host of other characters, including Little Red Riding Hood, Laffo the clown, and even Popeye and Jack Frost. Thousands of townsfolk gathered, their faces filled with wonder as Santa, with his reindeer in tow, made his grand entrance.

The success of the event led to another surprise announcement: Santa would return the following Saturday, December 18th, for an encore performance. This time, he was bringing a special guest—Prince Ali Buddha of Afghanistan, an Oriental mystic known for his enchanting magic tricks and puppet shows. The town buzzed with excitement at the thought of another magical day, filled with performances, carols sung by local students, and gifts from Santa himself.

Behind the scenes, much credit was due to the efforts of the Boy Scouts, CCC boys, and other local volunteers who helped manage the large crowds and assist with the event logistics. Their contribution was a testament to the community's spirit of cooperation and goodwill.

As the days ticked down to Christmas, Seneca was alive with joy and anticipation. The town had come together to create a magical experience that would be remembered for years to come. Santa's visit, complete with real reindeer and a cast of colorful characters, was more than just a parade—it was a celebration of the season, of community, and of the magic that Christmas brings to young and old alike.

In the end, the 1938 Christmas season in Seneca was a resounding success, filled with laughter, joy, and a little bit of magic, reminding everyone of the wonder and spirit of the holiday season.

Below is the story of the parades as told by the newspaper articles:

Jingle Bells—December 15th

C. of C. Announces Santa Has Genuine Reindeer.

Boys and girls and grown-ups, too! Betcha never saw a real reindeer!

All these years you have seen pictures of reindeer, but what's a picture compared to the real flesh and blood kind like the Esquimaux use?

Santa Claus, it appears from an announcement by the Chamber of Commerce, has decided to quit foolin'. When he comes to Seneca December 15th he actually will be driving reindeer and there can't be any doubt about it.

Already a Chamber of Commerce committee, headed by A.J. Wempe, has made arrangements with the Seneca city council for lighting. Christmas, it appears, comes earlier and earlier each year. Some day we are going to save time and hold both holidays on the Fourth of July.

It is no great trick to induce Santa Claus to visit a town. He shows up each year in December in any

number of places. But it was some feat to get Santa Claus to promise to bring real reindeer. Why, a reindeer just can't eat any old thing. He has to have reindeer moss. Neither can he be brought from the polar regions here in one jump. He has to be moved south gradually, so he can get used to the heat. For that reason, Santa Claus starts in moving him south by degrees. In fact, he maintains stables along the way. It's quite a story. We'll see if we can find out more about it.

Courier Tribune 15 Nov 1937, page 1

Genus Rangifer; Family Cervidae

But To You, Boys and Girls, Reindeer Coming.

All we know about reindeer is what we find in the encyclopedia. The encyclopedia says the reindeer is of the genus Rangifer, family Cervidae. But who cares about what scientific men call them? To us they are just plain reindeer and they are coming to Seneca as part of a pre-Christmas show by Santa Claus all day December 15.

But we should know something about what reindeer are good for in addition to hauling Santa Claus from pole to pole.

The reindeer, sometimes called caribou, ranges from Maine and New Brunswick to the north of Europe where the Laplanders use it extensively both as a pack and draft animal. In fact, the reindeer is so valuable to the Laplander, it takes the place of horses, sheep, and oxen. While a reindeer is hardly more than three feet high, he has great strength and endurance. It has even been known to haul a sledge as much as 50 miles in one day. Dunder and Blitzen, coming to Seneca Dec. 15, must be fully that good or Santa Claus never would get here.

The Laplanders milk their reindeer and make cheese. The flesh of the animal supplies them with meat; the skins are used for clothing, tents, and bedding.

Santa Claus will not confine his exhibit to reindeer. In fact, his advance agent says there will be a regular carnival of fun at Santa's own cabin.

Courier Tribune 6 Dec 1937

STREET AGLOW IN YULETIDE

THE REINDEER ARE READY

Why, Virginia, What Ever Made You Think the Merchants Would Deceive You?

The same skeptics who told Virginia things which made her ask about the genuineness of Santa Claus are now putting ideas into the child's head about the flesh and blood reindeer, hired to haul Santa Claus here next Wednesday, December 15.

Now once again, Virginia, and older persons too, Santa Claus is bringing living, breathing moss-eating reindeer here. Only possible exception could be some calamitous happening to the reindeer and who... wants to borrow trouble in the Christmas season?

The Courier-Tribune sent its ace reporter, Old Eagle Eye, to make an investigation of the rumors that the reindeer are only stuffed animals, made of paper mache or something of the sort. Old Eagle Eye made quick work of his job. He was back at the office in 15 minutes. The best edition that the persons who are telling Virginia the reindeer are not real, who are stealing some of the new light bulbs from the Christmas trees which make Main Street a thing of beauty and a joy till New Year's.

Of course, right-thinking Christmas-spirited people would never do such a thing. The city council provided the new strings of lights and gave Main Street the finest kind of cooperation in preparation for Santa Claus. If sneaky bulb thieves steal the lights and persist in telling Virginia the reindeer are

not real, who knows, the council may just simply stop having Christmas here—or then again the City Marshal may have a boarder for his cute little jail cell in the city hall basement.

Everybody concedes Main Street never looked nicer than it does this Christmas. The Christmas trees are much more effective because there is an absence of unlighted trees. The lights are so connected that one dead or stolen bulb will not affect the others.

The Christmas committee has extended an invitation for the schools to close next Wednesday or at least part of the day so that the children will not miss Santa Claus and his reindeer, Little Red Riding Hood and her chariot, Laffo, the funny clown and his trick mule, the Indian chief and his elk, the three wise men and the camel, Popeye, Jack Frost, and so forth. Schools should arrange so the students can be in Seneca some time between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., a member of the committee suggests. It's thought a number of schools will close for the afternoon.

Courier Tribune 9 Dec 1937, page 1

SANTA CLAUS IS TO REPEAT COMES AGAIN THE 18TH

This Time He Brings an Entertainer, Prince Buddha of Afghanistan.

Old Santa Claus has announced he will play a return engagement in Seneca next Saturday. Why, that's more than anybody expected! What a break for the children, what a break!

Not only is Santa Claus giving the boys and girls good measure, he is throwing in extras. A.J. Wempe, resident engineer for Santa Claus, has just learned that instead of reindeer next Saturday, Santa will have a pal. And what a pal!

Santa has promised to bring no less a person than Prince Ali Buddha of Afghanistan. Prince Buddha is scheduled to appear on the stage of the city hall auditorium promptly at two o'clock p.m. The doors will open at 1:30. All children who have not yet reached their 12th birthday are welcome. Prince Buddha is an Oriental mystic. He is the kind of person who can pull rabbits out of hats and sword swallowing is just pie for the Prince.

The Prince also has a side line. It is a modernized version of Punch & Judy. It would be too much to expect Buddha to bring Charlie McCarthy, but it's a cinch Charlie McCarthy is not the only puppet in the show business. There are just as good puppets in the wood as have ever been carved.

During the wait for Prince Buddha, Mr. Wempe has asked Miss Whittlesey to have her high school young people sing Christmas carols. Prince Buddha will spend 30 to 40 minutes doing his stuff and then Santa Claus will get right down to the real business of the afternoon, the presentation of a personal gift to each boy and girl in the room. Last year more than 4000 similar gifts were made on two Saturdays.

It is confidently expected the city hall will be jammed to the guards. For this reason, Mr. Wempe has arranged with Chief Charlie Rucker to have firemen at the hall to see that no harm comes to anyone. Assisting also will be Seneca Boy Scouts who will help Santa Claus in distributing his gifts. The Happy Homes Helping Hands 4-H club is being used to prepare Santa's presents in shape for bestowal.

So the 1938 Christmas season approaches its climax on Main street. Recognizing the hurry and haste of the last week before Christmas, it was announced at a meeting of Chamber of Commerce members Tuesday noon that the stores will be opening each evening, beginning Saturday.

Courier Tribune, 16 Dec 1937, page 1

[MyHeritage](#)See <https://www.myheritage.com/>. was used to colorize and enhance the photos. [ChatGPT](#)See <https://chatgpt.com/>. was used to transcribe the newspaper articles and to create the narrative from those newspaper articles.

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

Calling all [Genea-Musings](#)See <https://www.geneamusings.com/>. Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Come on, everybody, join in and accept the mission and execute it with precision.



1) Share one way in which you've implemented Artificial Intelligence (AI) in your genealogy research (You can do more than one if you like!). What AI tools did you use?

Randy's question is certainly a tough one! Choosing just *one* way to use AI? That's a challenge!

While I haven't dabbled in AI as extensively as Randy Seaver, I've incorporated it into various aspects of my work. I mainly use two platforms: [ChatGPT](#)See <https://chatgpt.com/>. and [Perplexity.ai](#)See <https://www.perplexity.ai/>.

Perplexity.ai has been incredibly helpful for historical research, particularly when I was creating displays for the Nemaha County Historical Society. It's been a reliable resource for digging deeper into history.

On the other hand, I turn to ChatGPT for content creation and refinement. For instance, in last week's "Saturday Night Genealogy Fun" post, I used ChatGPT to compile a narrative from several previous blog posts. One of the things I appreciate most about ChatGPT is how effortlessly it transforms a series of newspaper articles into a cohesive narrative. It also excels at enhancing RootsMagic narrative reports, giving them a more engaging tone.

I'll also be using ChatGPT for this blog post. Once I've written the draft, I plan to paste it into ChatGPT and have it polish my writing. I'll also ask it to craft a meta description for the post.

Be sure to check out other posts on this blog related to [Artificial Intelligence](#)See <https://heartlandgenealogy.org/category/artificial-intelligence/>!

Benjamin Duggins Sells Land

Preble County Ohio
Deeds V. 71-72 1877-1880
Film 564939 DGS 8588017

Image 172
page 320

320

Benjamin A Duggins & Wife to Alex , F. Hume & Thomas Moore

Filed for record August 27 " 1878

Know all men 1878 by these Presents : That I , Benjamin A. Duggins of the County of Preble and State of Ohio , in consideration of the Sum of Fifty Two hundred and Fifty Dollars , to me paid by Alexander F Hume and Thomas Moore of the County of Butter and State aforesaid , the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledge do hereby Grant , Bargain , Sell and Convey to the said Alexander F. Hume, Thomas Moore and their Heirs and Assigns forever the following Real Estate , situated in the County of Preble , in the State of Ohio , and in the Township of Gasper and bounded and described as follows : situate , lying and being in the County of Preble and State of Ohio , and being the North part of the North-East quarter of Section No . Seventeen (17) in Township No 7 and range two (2) East & " and bounded and described as follows , to – wit :

Beginning at the North [West]

corner of said quarter a + on a boulder, Witness a W on a

boulder , N [51 3/4]degrees E 46 links and a W on a boulder N [52 1/2] degrees W

44 links ; thence N. 86 degrees East one hundred twenty nine forty

hundredths poles to a Corner , a + on a boulder planted for the

S. W. Corner of Section 9 , thence South [4 degrees] E one hundred and four and sixty one hundredths poles to a corner ; thence S [86 degrees]

West the hundred and twenty nine and Forty hundredths

poles to the West line of said quarter thence North 4 degrees West

One hundred and four and forty two hundredths poles to

the place of beginning , containing Eighty four and sixty

Five hundredths acres be the same more or less and all

the estate title and interest of the said Benjamin A. Duggins

therein , – To Have and to Hold said premises , with all the privileges

and appurtenances thereunto belonging to the said Alexander

F Hume and Thomas Moore their heirs and assigns forever

And the said Benjamin A. Duggins for himself and his

heirs does hereby Covenant with the said Alexander F. Hume

and Thomas Moore their Heirs and assigns that he is

lawfully seized of the premises aforesaid , that the said

premises are free and clear from all Incumbrance what

soever , and that he will forever Warrant and Defend the

same , with the appurtenances unto the said Alexander

F. Hume and Thomas Moore their heirs and assigns

against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever .

In Witness Whereof , the said Benjamin A. Duggins

and Jane Duggins his wife who hereby released all
her right of dower in the premises , have hereunto set their
hands and seals this 27th day of August , in the year
of our Lord one thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Eight
B. A. Duggins (LS)
Jane Duggins (LS)

Signed , sealed and acknowledged in presence of –

Charles F. Duggins

James A Gilmore

State of Ohio |
Preble County SS . |

Be it remembered that on this 27th day of August
A. D . 1878 , below , me , the subscriber a Notary Public in and [for] said
personally came the above named Benjamin A. Duggins
and Jane Duggins his wife the grantors in the foregoing deed
and acknowledged the signing and Sealing of the same to be
their voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes thereto
mentioned , And the said Jane Duggins wife of the said Benj –
amin A. Duggins being at the same and examined by me
Seperate and a part from her said husband , and the con
tents of said Instrument being by me made known and
Examined to her , then declared that she did voluntarily
sign seal and acknowledge the same , and that she is
Still satisfied therewith as her voluntary act and deed
for the uses and purposes therein mentioned .

In Testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my
name and affixed my Notarial Seal on the day and year
last aforesaid ,

(Seal)

James A. Gilmore

Notary Public

PCO

320

Benjamin & Daggins wife to Mrs. F. Hovey & Thomas Moore
Field for word August 27, 1878
Know all men by these presents, that we, Benjamin & Daggins wife
of the County of Orange and State of New York, in consideration of the
sum of Fifty Dollars and Fifty Dollars to me paid by
the said F. Hovey and Thomas Moore or the credit of Butler
and state aforesaid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged,
do hereby assign, sell and convey to the said F. Hovey
& Thomas Moore their heirs and executors forever
the following Real Estate situated in the County of Ulster, at the
Site of the, and in the Township of Esopus and bounded
and described as follows: Little River, up and bring in to
the County of Ulster and State of New York being the north east
part of the South East quarter of Section No. Six hundred 17 1/4
acres of land lying above Esopus and bounded
and described as follows to wit:

Beginning of the 19th Inst

Corner of said Precinct, a corner in a border, between 47 & 49
Boulevard, 17 1/2 & 18 1/2, were set up a border, 47 1/2 &
49 1/2, leaving a place 1 1/2 rods square, and hundred rods
pole 1/2 at corner, 2 1/2 in a border, just east of
the N. corner of Section 9, there being 3 1/2 rods north and
four and one hundredth pole to the corner. There is also
not one hundred and twenty acres and there hundred rods
pole to the N.E. line of said master, there being 1/2 not
one hundred and forty and one half poles to the N.E. line
of the place of beginning, containing eighty four and three
one hundredths acres to the S. and one 1/2 of less, and all
the estate title and interest of the said Benjamin & George
Burke.

To Moore and to Ward said Friends, with all the feelings
and expectation of Friends accompanying to the said Meeting
at Kettering Friends' Meeting House there were said meetings times
and the said George Morris & George Fox namely said
was present at the meeting house more than said Fox used to have
there. Also John Clegg & John Wesley said Fox said that he is
now fully satisfied of the Friends' agreement that the said Friends
provisions at first and last given him at his residence what
several as far as is told to me I am well aware of. Said Fox the
said George Morris & George Fox were present at the said Friends' meeting house
whereas the said George Morris & George Fox were also present
also John Clegg & John Wesley were also present
At the close of the meeting the said George Morris & George
and John Wesley & John Clegg, the latter being lame and
had no strength of body so the Friends gave them seats set them
downe by the side of the pulpit and upon the floor of the said
Meeting House. The Friends and others present did not directly say
Be ye kind, kind and merciful to your
presence & friends & friends
George Morris & George Fox
John Wesley & John Clegg
John Clegg & John Wesley

321

*State of Ohio.
Pike County ss.*

Be it Remembred, That on the 27th day of August
A.D. 1878, before me, the subscriber a Notary Public in said Said
County personally came the above-named Benjamin St. Duggins
and Jane Duggins his wife the Plaintiff in the foregoind sued
and acknowledged the signing and sealing of the same to be
their voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein
mentioned. And the said Jane Duggins, wife of the said Benj-
amin St. Duggins being at the same time examined by me,
separate and apart from her said husband, and the con-
tents of said Instrument being by me made known and
explained to her, then declared that she did voluntarily
sign, seal and acknowledge the same, and that she is
still satisfied therewith as her voluntary act and deed
for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

In Testimony Whereof I have hereunto Subscribed my Name and affixed my Notarial Seal on the day and year last aforesaid,

James A. Gilmore
Managing Director
Ph.D.

Purple Heart

Lt. Haley Skinner

Haley William Skinner was born on February 28, 1918, in Delphos, Kansas, and moved with his family to Sabetha in 1933. He attended Kansas State College and Emporia Teachers College, where he developed a passion for aviation, earning his private pilot's license in March 1940. His interest in flying led him to enlist in the U.S. Army Air Corps in March 1941, marking the beginning of a promising military career.

Haley's initial training took place at Airlee Field in Stamford, Texas, followed by advanced training at Randolph Field. His dedication to his studies saw him survive the stringent training process, and by the summer of 1941, he was one of the few cadets still in the program. His leadership and commitment earned him the role of editor-in-chief of a cadet publication, and by the fall of 1941, he had completed his pursuit pilot training at Selma, Alabama, earning his wings as a second lieutenant.

Assigned to the 57th Pursuit Group, Haley was stationed at Windsor Locks, Connecticut, where he continued training and preparing for combat. With the onset of World War II, he was transferred to the west coast and eventually to Australia in early 1942. He was aboard the USS Langley, a converted aircraft carrier being used as an aircraft tender, on its mission to transport P-40 fighter planes to Java.

On February 27, 1942, tragedy struck when the Langley was attacked by Japanese aircraft near Java. The ship was severely damaged, and its crew was forced to abandon it. Haley and other survivors were transferred to the USS Pecos, a tanker that was itself sunk the following day by Japanese bombers. Haley was reported missing after these events, and despite extensive efforts to locate survivors, no definitive word of his fate emerged.

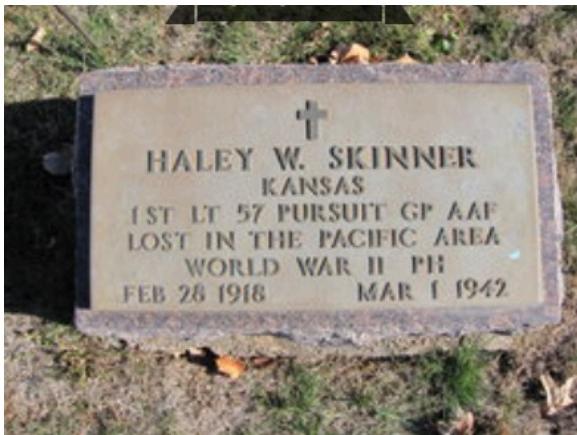
For months, the Sabetha community and Haley's family clung to hope, buoyed by reports of survivors being rescued long after similar incidents. A memorial service was held in Sabetha in April 1942 to honor his service and sacrifice. Friends, family, and members of various community organizations, including the Masonic Order, Boy Scouts, and American Legion, gathered to pay tribute to Haley, a beloved figure in his community.

In December 1945, after nearly four years of uncertainty, the War Department officially presumed Haley dead. He was 24 years old at the time of his death, having perished in the service of his country. Haley's life was one of devotion to his family, friends, and nation, and his memory continues to inspire those who knew him.

Haley was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, and his name is inscribed on the Tablets of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines, as well as on a memorial in Sabetha Cemetery, Kansas. His legacy endures as a symbol of courage, service, and sacrifice during one of the most challenging periods of American history.

Executive Officer Lt. Commander Lawrence J. McPeake was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for valor for his actions aboard Pecos. After the order to abandon ship was given by the ship's Captain, Commander Abernethy, Lt. Commander McPeake was seen engaging Japanese Aichi D3A1 "Val" dive bombers, which were machine-gunning survivors in the water. By some crewmembers' accounts, he was reported to have made it off the ship after it went down. Others reported him last being seen manning the machine gun. In fact, he did swim away from the vessel with another officer as it was going down. However, his body was never recovered and he was eventually listed as Killed In Action after the war.

After Pecos was sunk, Whipple raced to the scene and rescued 232 survivors. Many of the survivors, although visible by crew members of Whipple, were unable to be picked up and were abandoned at sea, due to the detection of what was thought to be two enemy submarines in the area at extremely close range. Out of over 630 total crewmen and Langley survivors on Pecos more than 400 were left behind and died. Exact casualty numbers for the doomed ships of the United States Asiatic Fleet and American-British-Dutch-Australian Command are impossible to gather because so many Allied warships were sunk in the Dutch East Indies campaign (at least 24 total) and many of those ships had already picked up survivors of other sunken ships and then were also sunk by the Japanese hours or days later.

Photo added by [Larry Gilbert](#)

Haley W Skinner

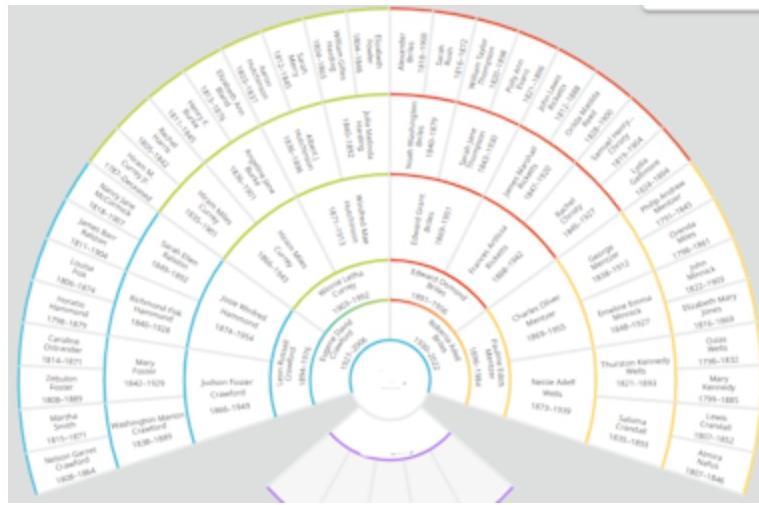
v

BIRTH	28 Feb 1918
DEATH	1 Mar 1942 (aged 24)
	At Sea
CENOTAPH	Sabetha Cemetery
	Sabetha, Nemaha County, Kansas, USA
MEMORIAL ID	154945475 · View Source

DNA Study

Have you been exploring new tools or techniques to help with your genealogy research? Have they helped you overcome any of your brick walls?

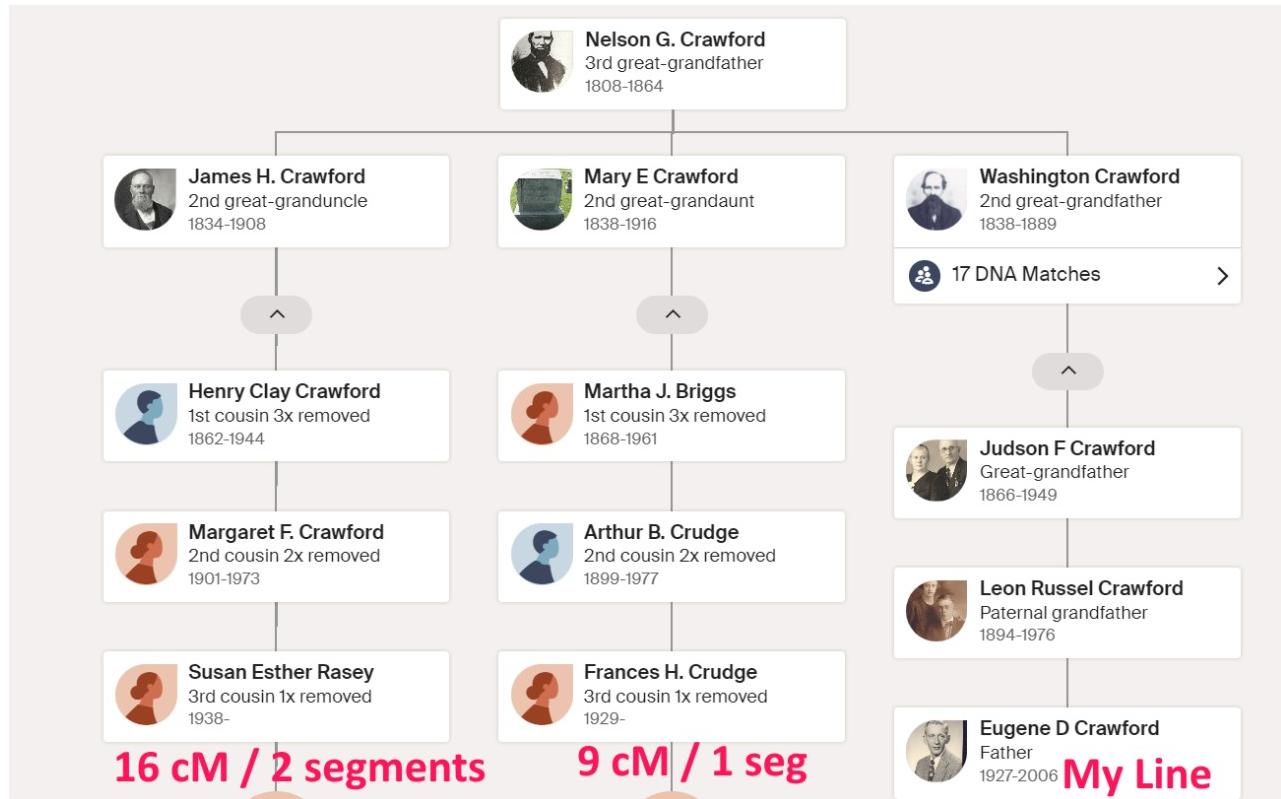
Despite being told that Ancestry DNA might not help with my more distant brick walls, I decided to take [Dianah Southard's DNA Study Group](#). See <https://www.yourdnaguide.com/>. course. Dianah emphasizes that autosomal DNA can be particularly effective for tracing ancestors as far back as 3rd great-grandparents. Unfortunately, my brick walls extend further into the past.



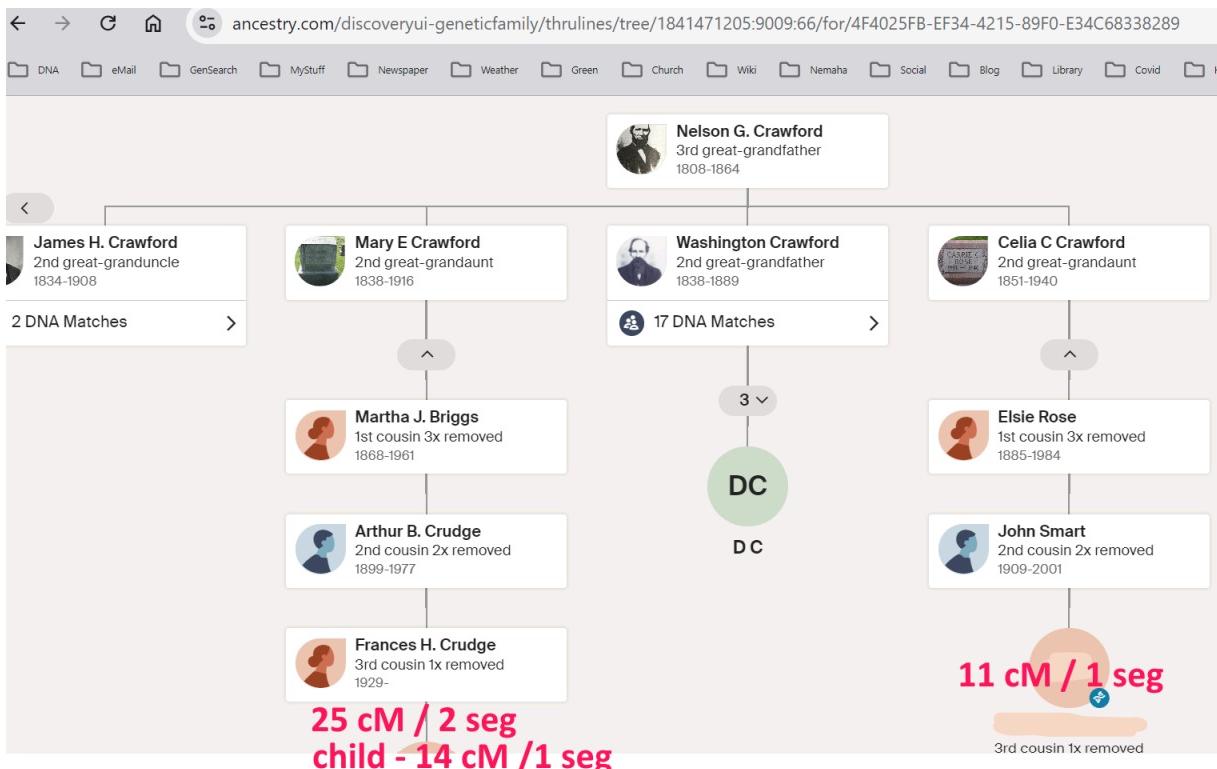
However, I'm not giving up. I'll be applying the skills I learned in the course to dig deeper into my Crawford and Smith ancestry. My focus will be on my 3rd great-grandparents, Nelson G. Crawford and his wife, Martha Smith. Nelson and Martha had eight children, and six of them have descendants, so I'm hopeful that exploring these lines will help me uncover more about their lives and heritage.



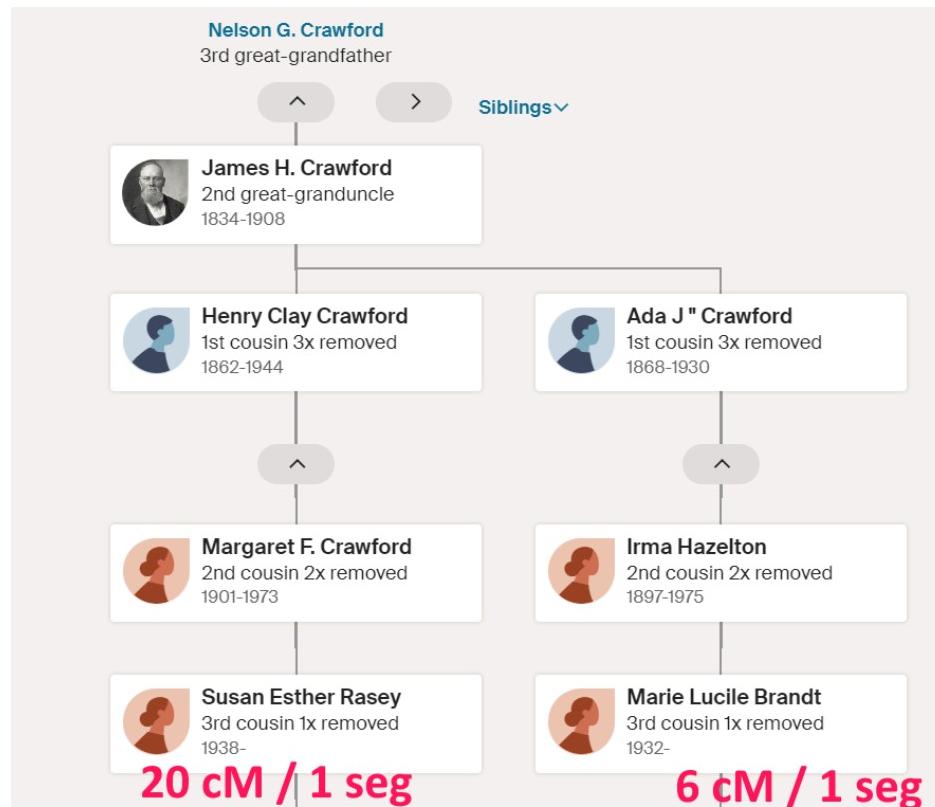
The first step is to identify what Dianah calls 'Best Known Matches' (BKM). By using Ancestry's ThruLines feature for myself and my two brothers, I can pinpoint potential BKMs to focus on.



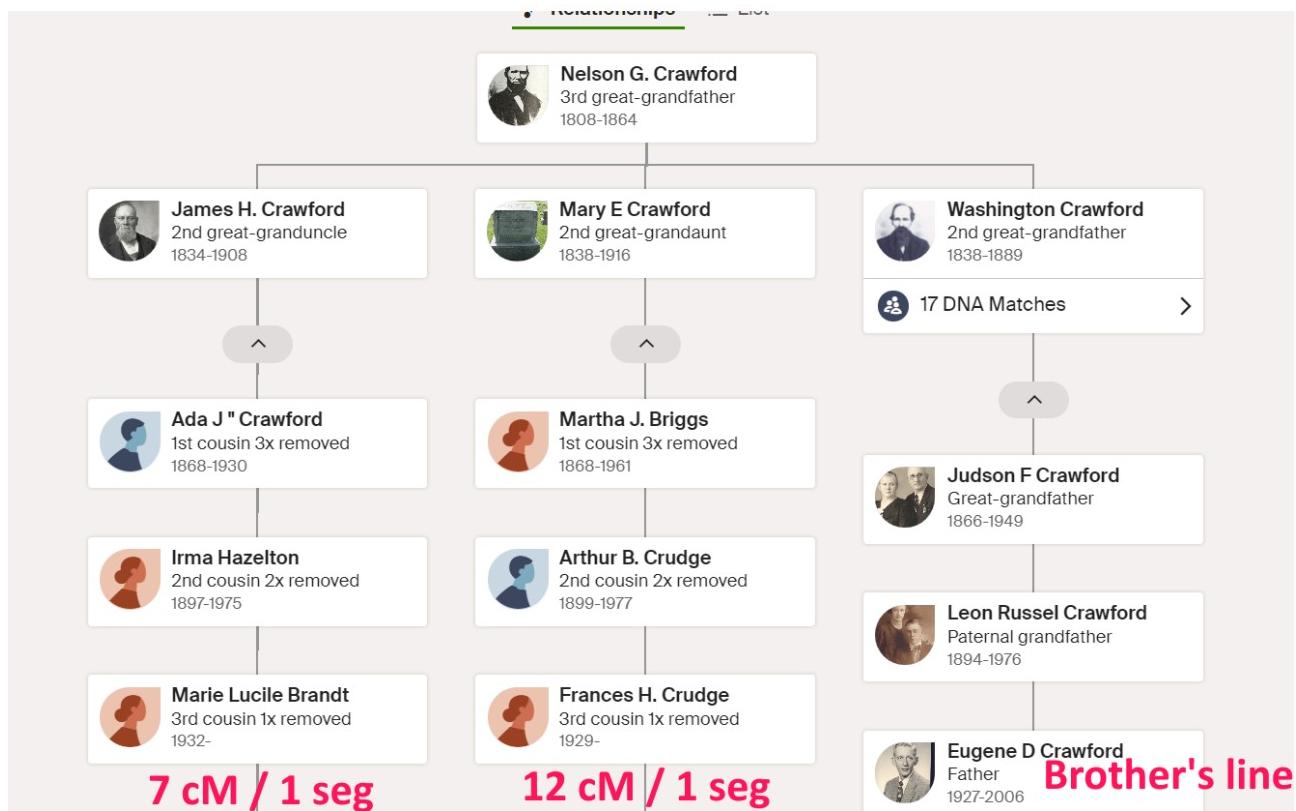
Potential BKB for my DNA



Potential BKM for brother 1



More potential BKM for Brother 1



BKM for Brother 2

Since each BKM can have up to 100 shared matches, I need to focus on one to begin with. Looking at the centimorgan (cM) data, two of my brother's matches seem like strong starting points. One shares 20 cM across a single segment but has a tree with only seven people. The other shares 25 cM across two segments and has a tree

extending five generations. Although both lines are in my tree, I'm more familiar with the Rasey line (20 cM). Therefore, I'll begin by exploring the 'Rasey' shared matches to help identify any unknown connections.

My next step will be to ensure that all 'Rasey' shared matches are properly labeled with their Crawford connections. Those who share 20 cM or more with my brother have already been labeled.

	+	C's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 36 cM Paternal side	Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 22 cM	3 4
	+	C's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 29 cM Paternal side	3rd cousin 2x removed or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 21 cM	3 4
	+	C's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 27 cM Paternal side	4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 22 cM	3 4

Thanks to ProTools, the list of shared matches has expanded. It now includes those who share less than 20 cM with my brother but share at least 20 cM with the 'Rasey' match.

	+	C's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 21 cM Paternal side	4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 21 cM
	+	C's: Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 4th cousin 18 cM Paternal side	Half 3rd cousin 1x removed or 3rd cousin 2x removed 26 cM
	+	C's: 4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 16 cM Paternal side	4th cousin or half 3rd cousin 1x removed 20 cM

I'll be sharing my progress in future posts as I work through these matches and gain more insight into the process.

Duggins Land Issue

Have you ever encountered a deed that implies a person is an executor of an estate without specifically identifying the person in that manner?

The following deed is the result of a court case decision against Benjamin A. Duggins. The statement “Benjamin A. Duggins having first given due and legal notice” implies that Benjamin may have been an executor of an estate. Thus, the following deed provides clues to other potential records.

Sheriff McCleaf , to William A Duggins Received for Record Jan 3rd 1865
 Know all men by these Presents that whereas W J Gilman at the October term of the Court of Common Pleas , within and for the County of Preble AD 1863 recovered a judgement in said Court , against Benjamin A Duggins for the sum of one hundred and fifty seven dollars and ninety four cents and five dollars and sixteen cents costs of suit , and whereas the said William J Gilmore afterwards on the 14th day of November A D 1865 and out of the Clerks office of said court , an executor on the said judgement , of that date directed to the sheriff of Preble County commanding him to make the amount of said Judgement and costs of the goods and chattels of said Benjamin A Duggins and for want thereof of his lands and tenaments which execution duly came to the hands of John R McCleaf Sheriff of said County to be executed ,

Image 452 of 587

page 292

and such proceedings were legally had upon said execution that afterwards on the 9th day of January AD 1864 the said John R McCleaf as such sheriff and by virtue of said execution duly offered at public auction the lands and tenements hereinafter described levied upon on said execution as the property of the said Benjamin A Duggins having first given due and legal notice of the time and place of said sale more than thirty days prior thereto in the Eaton Weekly Register a Newspaper printed in said County of Preble and in general circulation therein and their sold the same to William A Duggins for the sum of Five thousand dollars which sale was afterwards returned to the said court and by the said Court at its October term 1863 to wit on the 2nd day of February A D 1864 examined and confirmed and the said John R McCleaf ordered to convey the said Lands and tenements so sold as aforesaid to the said William A. Duggins upon his complying with the terms of said sale in fee simple And the said William A Duggins having complied with the terms of said sale I John R McCleaf Sheriff of said County of Preble in consideration of the premises and by virtue of the powers in me vested by law & do hereby give grant and convey unto the said William A Duggins his heirs and assigns forever , the lands and tenements so sold as aforesaid and situate in Preble County Ohio and bounded and described as follows towit : The North East quarter of section to seventeen (17) Township No Seven (7) Range two (2) East , and forty acres off of the North end of the South East quarter of said section 17 Tp 7 Range 2 East aforesaid To have and to hold to him the said William A Duggins and to his heirs and assigns forever . In testimony whereas I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 31st day of December AD 1864
 John R McCleaf
 Sheriff Preble County Ohio

Executed and delivered in our presence
 J M Brown Sur Riserger |
 The State of Ohio Preble County S. S. |

Be it remembered that on this 31st day of December 1864 before me a Notary Public in and for said County personally came John R McCleaf of and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his voluntary act and deed as Sheriff of said County of Preble In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal Notarial the day and year above written

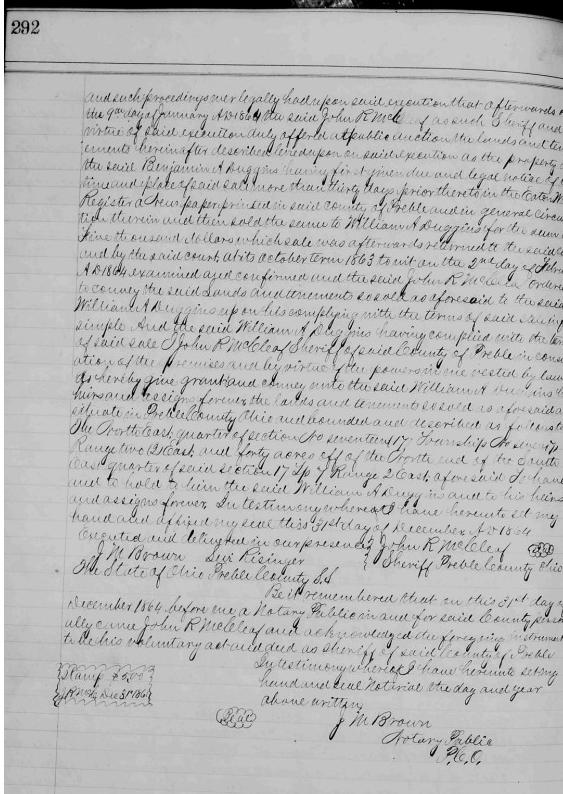
J M Brown
 Notary Public
 P. C. O.

Stamp \$5.00
 JR Mc Dec 31st 1861

Preble County Ohio Deed vol. 55, page 291

Sheriff McCleaf to William Adlumino Received for Record Jan 3rd 1865
 Know all Men by these Presents that whereas WJ Gilmore at the October term of the Court of Common Pleas within and for the County of Preble AD 1863 recovered a judgement in said Court against Benjamin A Duggins for the sum of One hundred and fifty seven dollars and ninety four cents and fine dollars and sixteen cents costs of suit and whereas the said William J Gilmore afterwards on the 14th day of November AD 1863 went out of the clerks office of said court an execution on the said judgement of that date directed to the Sheriff of Preble County commanding him to make the amount of said judgement and costs of the goods and chattels of said Benjamin A Duggins and for want thereof of his lands and tenements which execution duly came to the hands of John R McCleaf Sheriff of said County to be executed,

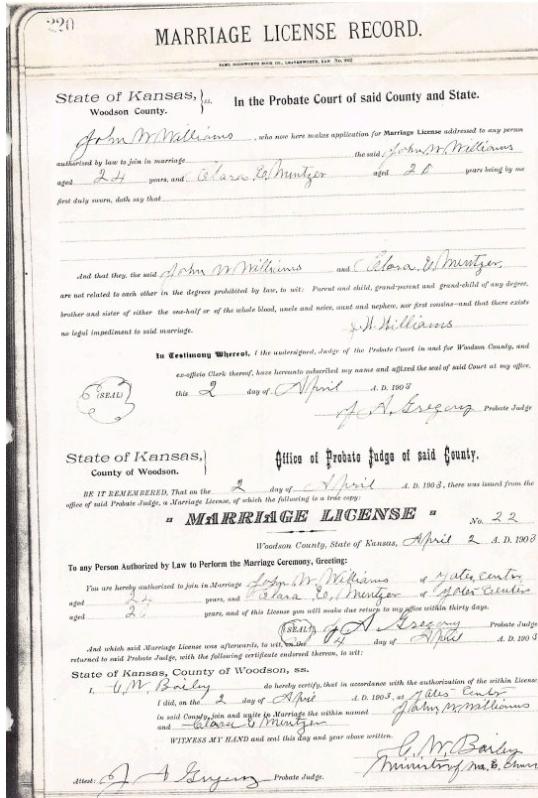
292



Friday Find

Clara Mentzer

Marriage license from Woodson County, Kansas



I asked ChatGPT to transcribe the above image and it produced the following:

State of Kansas,
Woodson County.

In the Probate Court of said County and State.

John M. Williams, who now makes application for Marriage License addressed to any person authorized by law to join in marriage **John M. Williams**, aged 27 years, and **Clara G. Mentzer**, aged 20 years, both of Woodson County, State of Kansas, and that they, the said **John M. Williams** and **Clara G. Mentzer**, are not related to each other in the degree prohibited by law; that neither party has a husband or wife living; that the male is 21 years of age or older, and the female is 18 years of age or older.

In Testimony Whereof, I, the undersigned Judge of the Probate Court in and for Woodson County, Kansas, hereby authorize any person legally qualified to solemnize marriages to join in marriage the above-named parties.

Given under my hand and official seal of said Court at Yates Center, Kansas, this 2nd day of April A.D. 1903.

J. F. Gregory
Probate Judge

(Seal)

Marriage License**State of Kansas, County of Woodson.**

Office of Probate Judge of said County.

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the 2nd day of April A.D. 1903, a Marriage License was issued from the office of said Probate Judge, to wit:

In **Marriage License Record**, No. 221, the following is the true copy:

Marriage License

Woodson County, State of Kansas, April 2nd, A.D. 1903.

To any Person Authorized by Law to Perform the Marriage Ceremony, Greeting:

You are hereby authorized to join in marriage **John M. Williams** of Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas, aged 27 years, and **Clara G. Mentzer** of Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas, aged 20 years, and of this license you will make due return to my office within 30 days.**J. F. Gregory**
Probate Judge

And which said Marriage License was duly returned to said Probate Judge, with the following certificate endorsed upon the same:

State of Kansas, County of Woodson, ss.I, **W. M. Bailey**, a Minister of the Gospel, do hereby certify, That in accordance with the authorization of the within License, I did on the 2nd day of April A.D. 1903, at the residence of **C. M. Mentzer**, in Woodson County, Kansas, join and unite in Marriage the within named persons.

Witness my hand and seal the day and year last above written.

W. M. Bailey
Minister of the Gospel
Attest: **A. J. Gregory** Probate Judge

Unfortunately, ChatGPT made some errors in the transcription. Below is an edited version of the transcription with errors marked out and corrections in red text.

State-of-Kansas,⁴
Woodson-County.[¶]

In-the-Probate-Court-of-said-County-and-State.[¶]

John-W-M.-Williams, who-now-makes-application-for-Marriage-License-addressed-to-any-person-authorized-by-law-to-join-in-marriage the said, John-W-H.-Williams, aged 24⁷ years, and Clara-E-G.-Mentzer, aged 20 years, being-by-me-first-duty-sworn, doth say that[¶]

both of Woodson County, State of Kansas; and that they, the said John-W-M.-Williams and Clara-E-G.-Mentzer, are not related to each other in the degree prohibited by law; to-wit: Parent-and-child, grand-parent-and-grand-child of any degree, brother-and-sister of either the one-half or of the whole blood, uncle-and-niece, aunt-and-nephew, nor first-cousin—and that there exists no legal impediment to said marriage, that neither party has a husband or wife living; that the male is 21 years of age or older, and the female is 18 years of age or older.[¶]

J.-W.-Williams[¶]

In Testimony Whereof, I, the undersigned Judge of the Probate Court in and for Woodson County, and ex-officio Clerk thereof, have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of said Court, at my office Kansas, hereby authorize any person legally qualified to solemnize marriages to join in marriage the above-named parties.[¶]

Given under my hand and official seal of said Court at Yates Center, Kansas, this 2nd day of April A.D. 1903.[¶]

J.-F.-Gregory⁴
Probate-Judge⁴
(Seal)[¶]

State-of-Kansas, County-of-Woodson.[¶]

Office-of-Probate-Judge-of-said-County.[¶]

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the 2nd day of April A.D. 1903, there a Marriage License was issued from the office of said Probate Judge, a Marriage Licence of which the following is a true copy: to-wit:[¶]

In-Marriage-License-Record:[¶]

No. 224, the following is the true copy:[¶]

Marriage-License[¶]

Woodson-County, State-of-Kansas, April 2nd, A.D. 1903.[¶]

To any Person Authorized by Law to Perform the Marriage Ceremony, Greeting:[¶]

You are hereby authorized to join in marriage John-W-M.-Williams of Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas, aged 24⁷ years, and Clara-E-G.-Mentzer of Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas, aged 20 years, and of this license you will make due return to my office within 30 days.[¶]

J.-F.-Gregory⁴
Probate-Judge[¶]

And which said Marriage License was afterwards, to-wit, on the 4 day of April A.D. 1903 duly returned to said Probate Judge, with the following certificate endorsed thereon, to-wit: upon the same:[¶]

State-of-Kansas, County-of-Woodson, ss.[¶]

I, C.-W.-M.-Bailey, a Minister of the Gospel, do hereby certify, That in accordance with the authorization of the within License, I did on the 2nd day of April A.D. 1903, at Yates Center the residence of C.-M.-Mentzer, in said Woodson County, Kansas, join and unite in Marriage the within named persons: John-W-Williams and Clara-E-Mentzer.[¶]

Witness my hand and seal this the day and year last above written.[¶]

C.-W.-M.-Bailey⁴
Minister-of-M-E-Church-the-Gospel⁴
Attest: A.-J.-A.-Gregory-Probate-Judge[¶]

[¶]

Thus, this is a perfect example of why any machine generated transcriptions need to be proofread.

Saturday Tidbits

U.S. Service News

Gehling Huber on Furlough

Gehling Huber, Seneca, is home on a nine-day leave. He joined the navy March 10; qualified for a naval trade school, and is rated now as an aviation machinist's mate trade schoolman. He is with the Great Lakes, Ill. Naval Training station, O.G. unit.

Raphael Roeder from Headquarters Co. Special Troops 35th Division, Camp Robinson, Ark., Private first class, is home on a visit.

Otis Millen, assistant Fiscal Accounting clerk at U.S. Naval Air station, San Pedro, Calif., was recently promoted to Head of Accounting Department under the new title, U.S. Naval Air station, Roosevelt Base, Terminal Island, California. Mr. and Mrs. Millen live at 1451 Redondo Ave., Long Beach, California.

Courier Tribune, 29 May 1941, page 4

U.S. Service News

Nemaha County to Furnish Four of Quota

Nemaha county's contingent of the Kansas quota of 931 men for selective military service, to report between June 10th and 30th, will be four men, the draft office announced yesterday.

In the order of their liability for service as now shown on the office records, the four men will be Belford Duryea and John Charles Baldwin, Seneca; John M. Christine, Sabetha; Samuel Aeschliman, who is now in California. Aeschliman may ask a transfer and report in California. There may be other changes in the above list but that is the way it stands now. The next three names on the board's list are those of Frank Callahan and Joseph Barrett, Wetmore, Raphael Dalsing, Seneca.

Courier Tribune, 5 Jun 1941, page 1

U.S. Service News

Get More Questionnaires

The Nemaha county draft board received 700 questionnaire forms Friday and has started to send them to registrants at the rate of 50 per day.

By a regulation which becomes effective May 31, registrants now have 10 days in which to return their questionnaire, filled. Time formerly was five days.

Courier Tribune, 9 Jun 1941, page 1

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

Calling all Genea-Musings See <https://www.geneamusings.com/.Fans>:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Come on, everybody, join in and accept the mission and execute it with precision.

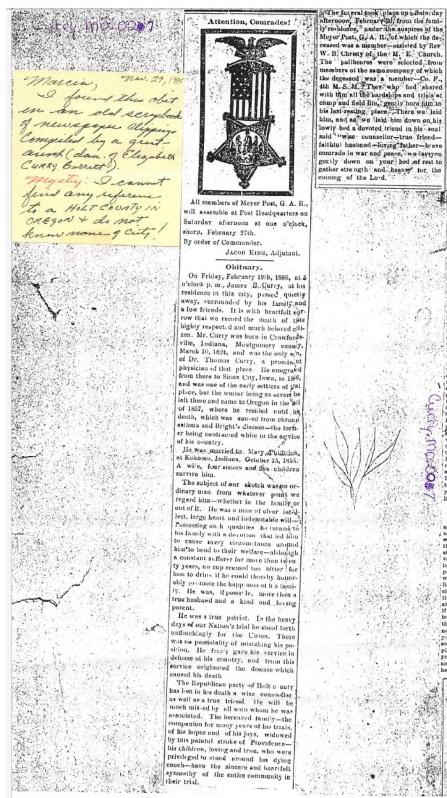
1) Share something unexpected that you've found while researching an ancestor.

When I first read Randy's post, I couldn't think of anything unexpected or unforeseen in my genealogy research. Then I remembered my collaboration with Sandy Kuchenreuther.

Our partnership dates back to the days when email, mailing lists, message boards, RootsWeb, and GenWeb were the cutting-edge tools for genealogists, replacing the era of the Genealogy Helper and SASE (self-addressed stamped envelopes). These new resources quickly became invaluable to the genealogy community.

Though I don't recall exactly how Sandy and I connected, it was likely through a mailing list or message board. At the time, I was trying to link my second great-grandfather, Hiram M. Currey, to another Hiram M. Currey in Peoria, Illinois. That fragile connection was based on a birth record in a family Bible and the tick marks from the 1840 census. From there, I was working to connect the Hiram Currey of Peoria to Hiram M. Currey, the state treasurer of Ohio. A county biography mentioned two sons of the Ohio Currey—Thomas and Providence M. Currey—but made no reference to a son named Hiram.

That's when I shifted focus to researching Thomas M. Currey and his brother, Providence M. Currey. Over the years, Sandy and I exchanged countless emails and letters as we pieced together our Currey research. One of the valuable documents Sandy shared was a photocopy of James B. Currey's obituary. The obituary stated that James Currey had "come to Oregon in the fall of 1857" and was active in the "Republican party of Holt County." Confused by the reference to Holt County in Oregon, we exchanged several emails trying to locate it. Eventually, we realized the obituary was referring not to Oregon the state, but to the town of Oregon in Holt County, Missouri.



Sadly, I lost contact with Sandy when my work responsibilities took over, and my genealogy research fell by the wayside. Although Sandy passed away in 2023, I still cherish the memory of our collaboration and the discoveries we made together.



Sandra Lee Kuchenreuther See [https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/bellevue-wa/sandra-kuchenreuther-11185416.\(1935-2023\)](https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/bellevue-wa/sandra-kuchenreuther-11185416.(1935-2023))

Power Settings

Have you ever experienced issues with your computer not going to sleep or failing to activate the screensaver? That's exactly what I dealt with for the past week!

It all started when I noticed my screens still lit in the middle of the night. I began troubleshooting, checking my power settings and even disabling cloud-based apps, but nothing seemed to work.

By Friday, I was ready to escalate my efforts with a clean boot. I meticulously documented the services I disabled and the startup apps I turned off. Yet, despite my efforts, the power settings still wouldn't function properly.

Google

windows 11 power settings not working

All Videos Forums Images News Shopping Web More Tools

AI Overview

If you are having trouble with power settings in Windows 11, you can try these steps: [①](#)

Check your power plan

If you have a custom power plan selected, you might not be able to change the power mode. You can try selecting a Balanced power plan by opening Control Panel, selecting System and Security, then Power Options. [②](#)

Run the troubleshooter

You can run the power troubleshooter by selecting the Start button, then Settings, Update & security, Troubleshoot, and Power. [③](#)

Reset your operating system

According to numerous sources, the next step was a system reset—something I was desperate to avoid!

 AI Overview

To reset the operating system (OS) on Windows 11, you can do the following: 

1. Go to Start > Settings > System > Recovery 
2. Select Reset PC next to Reset this PC 
3. Choose to Keep my files or Remove everything 
4. If you choose to Keep my files, you can select cloud or local, change settings, and set Restore preinstalled apps? to No 
5. If you choose to Remove everything, you can select Just remove my files if you're keeping the computer, or Remove files and clean the drive if you're recycling it 
6. Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the reset 

You can also reset your PC from the sign-in screen, or by using a recovery drive or installation media. 

A factory reset can help fix glitches or crashes, boost a sluggish system, and remove malware and unwanted software. However, it will also wipe out your applications, settings, preferences, personal files, and accounts. 

Before you reset your OS, you should back up your data. 



Determined to find another solution, I continued reading through forums and articles. One commenter mentioned discovering a second mouse across the room that was inadvertently preventing his computer from going to sleep. That comment stuck with me.

Realizing the hassle a reset would involve, I dug through my laptop bag and found my own mouse. To my surprise, it was still on! After turning it off and waiting a moment, my computer finally went to sleep.

A week of worry, research, and troubleshooting—all because a mouse was keeping my computer awake!

Purple Heart

Harold Lee Allen

Harold Lee Allen was born on May 25, 1924, in Oneida, Kansas, to James and Edith Allen. He grew up in a small town and, like many young men of his generation, was called to serve his country during World War II. On March 10, 1943, at the age of 18, Harold enlisted in the U.S. Army, and his service during the war would become a defining chapter in his life.

Assigned to a tank crew, Harold saw action in the Italian theater, where he participated in the Allies' hard-fought campaign to push the Germans out of Italy. He was stationed south of Rome when, during a battle, he was severely wounded by German shrapnel. Harold was hit while standing beside his tank, a moment that would leave lasting physical and emotional scars. Despite his injuries, Harold was grateful for the life-saving interventions of blood plasma and penicillin, which he credited for his survival. Reflecting on the importance of blood donations, Harold was moved by the knowledge that civilians back home had contributed to saving the lives of soldiers like him on the battlefield.

The wounds Harold sustained were serious, and his recovery was slow. He was sent to Winter General Hospital in Topeka, Kansas, where he spent time healing from the injuries that had not fully healed when he returned home on furlough in November 1944. The physical shrapnel remained embedded in his body, and he expressed bitterness about the fierce enemy he had faced, particularly the German snipers. In one tragic moment, a lieutenant in a tank ahead of him had been killed by a sniper after sticking his head too far out of the tank. Harold's cold realism about the war and the enemy he fought underscored the gravity of the situation he had faced in combat.

Throughout his recovery, Harold remained connected to his family, who anxiously awaited news of his condition. His sister, Kathryn Allen, and the rest of the family received word of his serious injuries while he was still stationed in Italy, and the community extended their sympathy to the family.

After the war, Harold returned to Kansas and eventually moved to Washington State in 1951 with his wife, Ruth Louise Hoover, whom he married in 1950. Harold found steady employment at Rainier Bank, where he worked for 23 years before retiring in 1976. His post-war life was marked by his deep involvement in veterans' organizations, including the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, ElKdrif Temple, and the American Legion, reflecting his continued connection to his wartime experiences and his dedication to his fellow servicemen.

Harold passed away suddenly on August 19, 1991, at the age of 67, in Bothell, Washington. He was survived by his wife of 41 years, his daughters Patricia and Susan, and a large extended family. His legacy as a veteran, a husband, a father, and a community member is fondly remembered by those who knew him.

The above narrative was written by ChatGPT using the following prompt:

ChatGPT 4o ▾



The attached document contains information from a variety of sources about Harold Lee Allen and his service during WWII. A line separates each source. The source information is directly below the line with an extract of the information below that. Using this information, write a narrative about Harold Lee Allen, his life and his military service.

ChatGPT was then asked to list the sources and responded as follows:

Here is a list of the sources used in the narrative about Harold Lee Allen:

1. **US Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010**
 - Information on Harold's birth, death, and military service dates.
2. **US World War II Draft Cards, Young Men, 1940-1947**
 - Details of Harold's registration for the draft, his personal information, and residence.
3. **Obituary of Harold Lee Allen, The Daily Herald (Everett, Washington), August 20, 1991, page 18**
 - Information on Harold's post-war life, his family, employment, and veteran activities.
4. **"Men in the Service," Sabetha Herald (Sabetha, KS), November 1, 1944, page 1**
 - Account of Harold's military service, injuries sustained in Italy, and his reflections on the war.
5. **"Oneida," The Courier Tribune (Seneca, KS), June 22, 1944, page 4**
 - A brief mention of Harold's injuries in Italy and the sympathy extended to his family.

These sources provide a comprehensive look at Harold Lee Allen's life, both during and after his military service.

Origins

Do you have an Ancestry DNA test? If so, have you explored the updated Origins feature? Since much of my family tree is rooted in colonial ancestors, I've only identified a few of my immigrant forebears. This sparked my curiosity about their geographical origins, so I decided to dig deeper into the birthplaces of some of my family lines.

Using FamilySearch, I traced the birth locations of ancestors on my paternal line for each surname. When this information wasn't available, I turned to FamilySearch's "[Find Your Last Name's Meaning and Origin](#)" See [https://www.familysearch.org/en/surname?.](https://www.familysearch.org/en/surname?)" tool for insights.

Paternal

- Crawford — unknown but likely Scottish or English
- Smith — unknown but likely English or Scottish
- Foster — England
- Browning — unknown but likely English or Scottish
- Ostrander — Netherlands
- Forbes — Unknown but likely Scottish
- Hammond — England
- Hale — England
- Fisk — England
- Arnold — Unknown but likely English or German
- Ralston — from Ireland but likely Scottish
- Barr — unknown but likely Scottish or English
- McCormick — Scotland
- Hall — Ireland
- Currey — England
- Reagan — Unknown but likely Irish
- Harris — England
- Van Ausdal — Netherlands and/or Belgium
- Burke — Ireland
- Graves — Unknown but likely English
- Bland — England
- Anderson — Unknown but likely Scottish or Swedish
- Hutchinson — England
- Nettleton — Unknown but likely English
- Merry — Ireland
- Peabody — England
- Harding — Ireland
- Flewelling — England
- Fowler — unknown but likely English or Scottish

Maternal

- Briles — German
- Beckerdite — unknown but likely English
- Rush — England
- Clark — England
- Thompson — Unknown but likely English
- Iglehart — German
- Evans — Wales

- Garrett – Unknown but likely English
- Ricketts – England
- Story – England
- Reed – German
- Buckles – England
- Christy – Unknown but likely Scottish or English
- Dawson – Unknown but likely English or Scottis
- Gallimore – England
- Bentley – England
- Mentzer – Unknown but likely German or French
- Penniman – Unknown but likely English
- Miles – England
- Joslin- England
- Minnick – Germany
- Wells – England
- White – England
- Kennedy – unknown but likely Irish or Scottish
- Barnes – England
- Crandall – England
- Butler – unknown but likely English or Irish
- Nafus – Netherlands
- Carpenter – Unknown but likely England

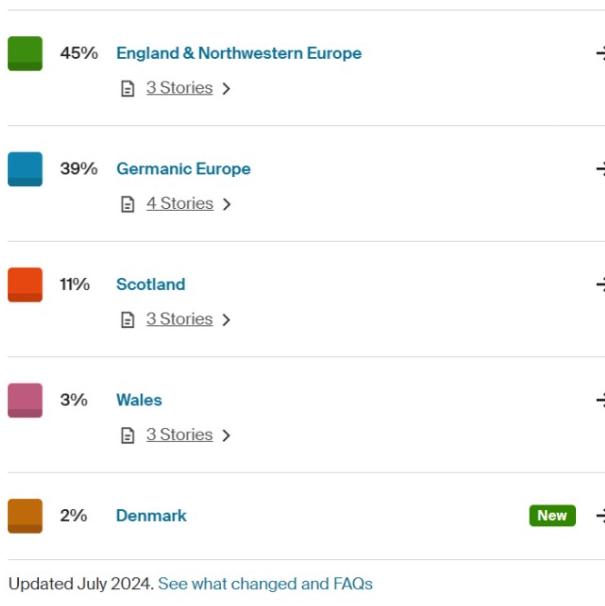
I then compiled the results into a spreadsheet, organizing them by geographic origin. The spreadsheet outlines the details of my four ancestral lines. Since I have DNA results for my mother as well, I was able to calculate a “maternal origin percentage” for her and a “total origin percentage” for myself and my brothers.

	Paternal Crawford	Paternal Currey	Maternal Briles	Maternal Mentzer	Maternal Total	Maternal %	Maternal Origin %	Total	Total %	Total Origin %
English	4	6	7	6	13	44.8%	62.1%	23	39.7%	
Unknown but likely English		3	3	2	5	17.2%	62.1%	8	13.8%	53.4%
Unknown likely Scottish or English	4		2		2	6.9%		6	10.3%	
Scottish	1				0	0.0%		1	1.7%	
Unknown but likely Scottish	1				0	0.0%		1	1.7%	
Unknown but likely Scottish or Swedish		1		1	1	3.4%		2	3.4%	
from Ireland but likely Scottish	1				0	0.0%	10.3%	1	1.7%	19.0%
Unknown but likely Irish or Scottish				1	1	3.4%		1	1.7%	
Unknown but likely English or Irish				1	1	3.4%		1	1.7%	
Unknown but likely Irish		1			0	0.0%		1	1.7%	
Irish	1	3			0	0.0%	6.9%	4	6.9%	12.1%
Netherlands	1			1	1	3.4%		2	3.4%	
Netherlands and/or Belgium		1			0	0.0%	3.4%	1	1.7%	5.2%
Unknown but likely English or German	1				0	0.0%		1	1.7%	
Unknown but likely German or French				1	1	3.4%		1	1.7%	
German			3		3	10.3%	13.8%	3	5.2%	5.2%
Wales			1		1	3.4%	3.4%	1	1.7%	1.7%

Below is a chart showing the Ancestry Origins for the 4 tests I control.

	Updates in October 2024			
Region	Mom	me	DC	Living T
England & NW				
Europe	65	45	59	63
Germanic Europe	10	39	11	12
Scotland	17	11	26	11
Wales		3	2	
Sweden & Denmark				
Sweden & Denmark				6
Denmark	4	2		3
Jewish				
Ireland				3
Norway				
Iceland	2			2
Netherlands	2		2	

Although many ancestral lines were not included in my “origins” analysis, the newly released Ancestral Origins feature closely aligns with the origins reflected in my family tree.



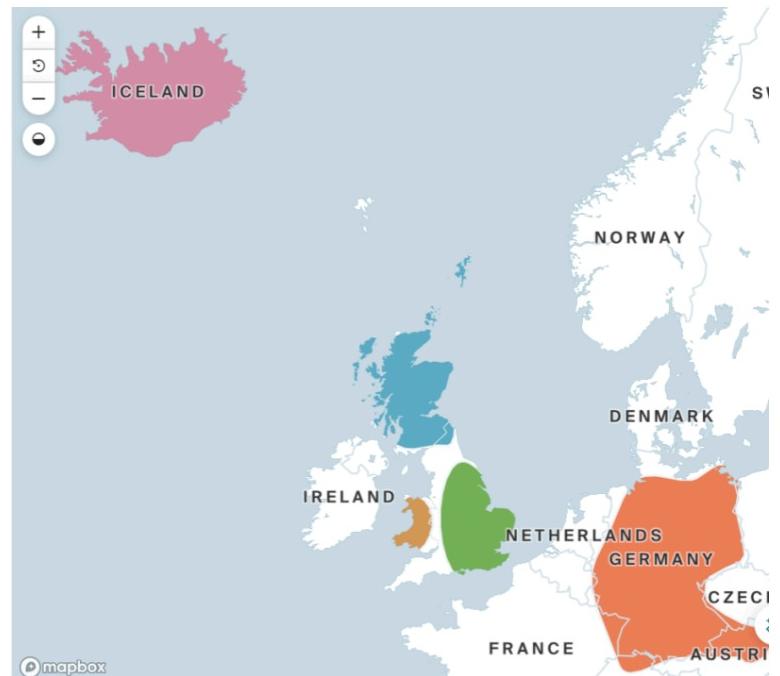
My Ancestral Origins



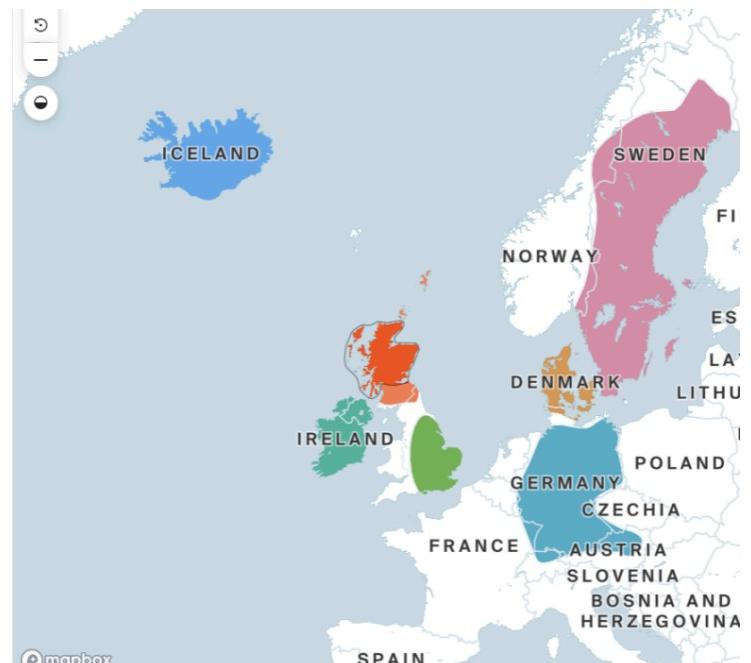
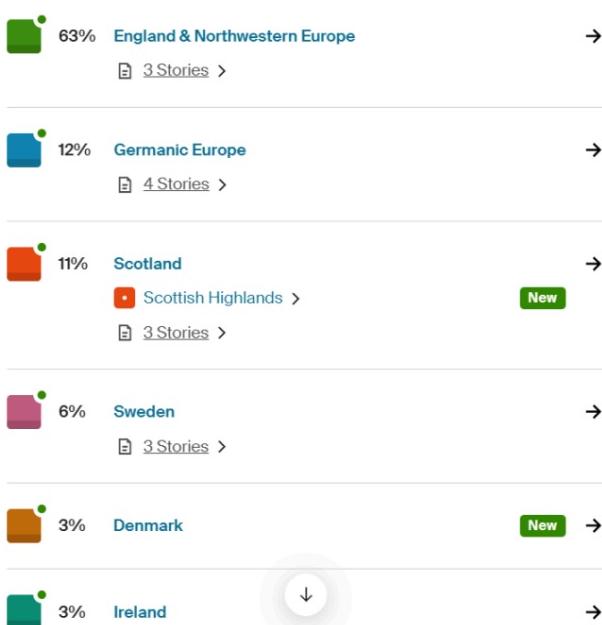
Updated July 2024. See what changed and FAQs

We compare your DNA against a worldwide reference panel to see which populations your DNA looks most like.
How do we calculate this?

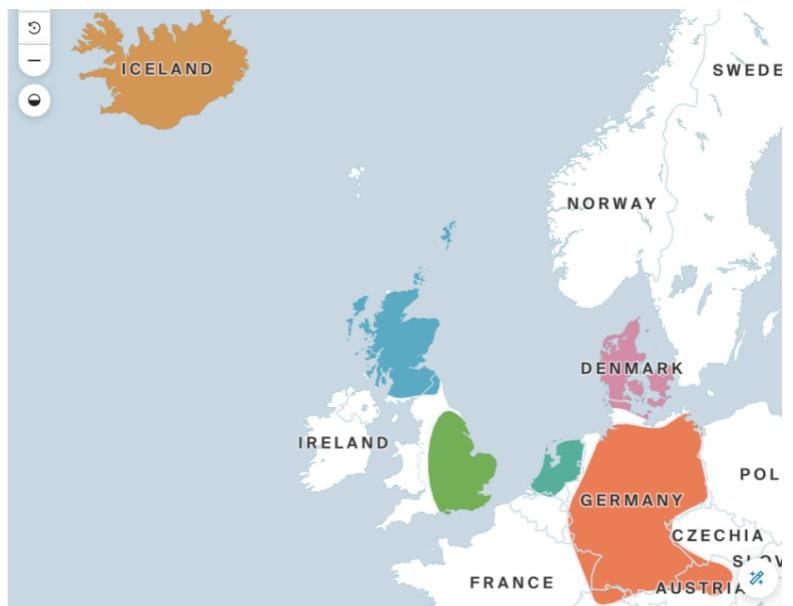
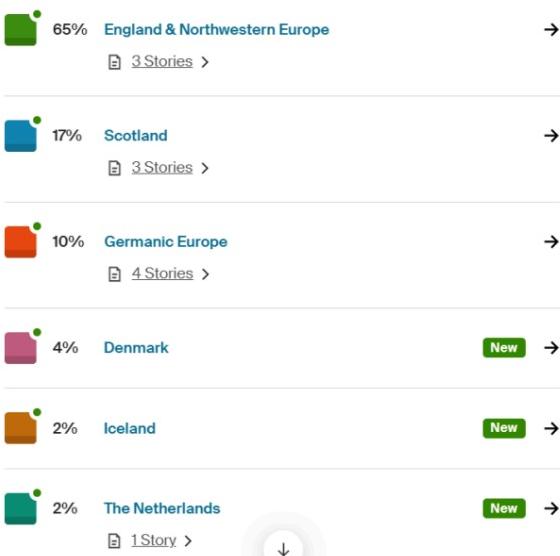
[Share](#)



DC's Ancestral Origins



LivingT's Ancestral Origins



Mom's Ancestral Origins

Benjamin A. Duggins

Benjamin A. Duggins was born in February 1819 in Ohio, where he spent much of his life. By 1843, Benjamin had settled in Washington Township, Preble County, Ohio, where he was listed on the local tax rolls. That same year, on March 12, he married Jane Hunter, marking the beginning of their life together in Preble County. The couple soon started a family, which would eventually include several children.

Throughout the 1840s and 1850s, Benjamin remained an active and prosperous farmer. He appeared on the tax rolls numerous times between 1843 and 1850, and in 1850, the U.S. census recorded him as a 31-year-old farmer residing in Gasper Township. His household included his wife Jane and their children: Sarah E., William H., Maria A., and John R. During these years, Benjamin began acquiring land, including an 84-acre plot in Preble County purchased in 1857 for \$3,000 from family members William A. Duggins and Henry J. Duggins. His land transactions reflected both his growing wealth and his connection to his community and family.

By 1860, Benjamin was living in Gasper Township with an estate valued at \$8,500 in real estate and \$1,400 in personal property, substantial amounts for the time. His family continued to grow, and in 1862, his son Charles Fremont Duggins was born. As the Civil War intensified, Benjamin, at the age of 44, registered for the military draft in June 1863. He enlisted in Company E of the 156th Ohio Infantry on May 2, 1864, serving his country during a critical period in American history. He was mustered out of the military on September 1, 1864, after several months of service.

After his military service, Benjamin continued his farming and land dealings, including selling portions of his property in the 1870s. He and his family were recorded on the 1870 census, still residing in Preble County. As his children grew, Benjamin continued to prosper, eventually selling land for \$5,250 in 1878.

In 1890, Benjamin was awarded an invalid pension for his Civil War service, demonstrating his continued connection to the military community. By the turn of the century, he had moved to Geneva Township in Van Buren County, Michigan, and also spent time at the National Home for Disabled Veteran Soldiers in Dayton, Ohio, in 1902. His later years were marked by moves between Ohio and Michigan, yet his roots remained in Preble County, Ohio, where he had spent much of his life.

Benjamin Duggins passed away on March 28, 1906, at the age of 87. His death was noted in local papers, recognizing him as a well-known farmer of Preble County. The funeral was held at the Christian church, with services conducted by Rev. H. A. Smith and under the auspices of the Eaton lodge of Odd Fellows and the Mulharen-O'Cain Post of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). Benjamin was buried at Mound Hill Cemetery in Eaton, Preble County, Ohio, leaving behind a legacy of service to his family, community, and country.

Jane Hunter Duggins

Jane Hunter was born around 1821 in Ohio, where she would spend her entire life. Little is known about her early years, but by 1843, she married Benjamin A. Duggins in Preble County, Ohio, and they began their family together.

In the 1850 U.S. Census, Jane was listed as a 29-year-old living in Gasper Township, Preble County, Ohio, with her husband, Benjamin, and their young children, Sarah, William, Maria, and infant John. As a farmer's wife in the mid-19th century, Jane's life would have been filled with the responsibilities of managing her household and raising her children while supporting her husband's farming endeavors.

Throughout the next few decades, Jane and Benjamin continued to live in Preble County, and their family grew further. By 1860, Jane, then 39 years old, was still in Gasper Township, with her husband and six children. The family welcomed another child, Charles Fremont Duggins, in 1862, further expanding the household.

The 1870 census recorded Jane at 49 years old, continuing her life as a dedicated wife and mother in Preble County. By this time, her older children were entering adulthood, and Jane, alongside Benjamin, remained at the heart of their family farm. In the 1880 census, at 59 years of age, Jane was still living in Preble County with Benjamin, reflecting her long-standing role in the family and community.

Jane Hunter Duggins passed away on March 22, 1900, at the age of 79, having lived a life deeply rooted in Preble County, Ohio. She was buried at Mound Hill Cemetery in Eaton, Preble County, Ohio, where she was laid to rest alongside her husband, Benjamin, and other members of her family. Jane's life was marked by her steadfast dedication to her family and her home, remaining a central figure in the Duggins household throughout her years.

Children of Benjamin and Jane Duggins:

- Sarah E. Duggins
 - William H. Dugigns
 - Maria C. Duggins
 - John R. Duggins
 - Emma Duggins
 - Benjamin Duggins
 - Sallie Duggins
 - Charles Fremont Duggins
-

The above narratives were written by ChatGPT when fed the information from the following RootsMagic Narrative report for Benjamin Duggins

Benjamin Duggins

Benjamin A. Duggins was born in Feb 1819 in Ohio.¹ See page .³ See page .

He was listed on the tax rolls between 1843 and 1845 in Washington Township, Preble, Ohio, United States.⁴ See page .

Benjamin A. Duggins and Jane Hunter were married on 12 Mar 1843 in Preble County, Ohio.²⁴ See page .²⁸ See page .

He was listed on the tax rolls in 1847 in Washington Township, Preble, Ohio, United States.⁴ See page .

Benjamin was listed on the tax rolls between 1849 and 1850 in Washington Township, Preble, Ohio, United States.⁵ See page .

He lived at Gasper Twp. in Gasper Township, Preble County, Ohio on 3 Aug 1850.⁶ See page . Benjamin Duggins is listed as a 31 year old farmer who was born in Ohio on the 1850 census. Also included in his household are Jane, aged 29; Sarah E, aged 6; William H, aged 4; Maria A, aged 3 and John R aged 3 months. He purchased land being 84 66/100 acres in N part SE 1/4 and S pt NE 1/4 S17T7R2 from William A. Duggins and Sally his wife for \$3000 on 10 Mar 1857 in Preble County, Ohio.⁷ See page .

Benjamin purchased land being 84 66/100 acres in N part SE 1/4 and S part NE 1/4 S17T7R2 from Henry J. Duggins for \$3380 on 11 Jun 1857 in Preble County, Ohio.⁸ See page .

He lived in Gasper Township, Preble County, Ohio on 1 Jul 1860.⁹ See page . Benjamin Duggins was listed as a 40 year old farmer born Ohio with \$8500 in real estate and \$1400 in personal property on the 1860 census. Also in the household was Jane, age 39; Sarah, aged 16; William, age 15; Maria, aged 1; Emma, aged 6, Benjamin, aged 4 and Sallie, aged 3.

He was the father of Charles Fremont Duggins who was born on 30 Mar 1862 in Preble County, Ohio.² See page .¹⁰ See page .

Benjamin registered for the military draft in Jun 1863 in Preble, Ohio, United States.¹¹ See page .

He enlisted in the Company E of the 156th Ohio Infantry on 2 May 1864 in Ohio.¹² See page .

He was mustered into Co. E 156th Ohio Infantry on 15 May 1864.³[See page .](#)¹²[See page .](#)¹⁴[See page .](#)

Benjamin was mustered out of the military on 1 Sep 1864 at Camp Dennison in Ohio.¹²[See page .](#)

He was ordered to pay a penalty from selling land prior to date in a legal notice on 9 Jan 1865 in Preble, Ohio, United States.¹⁵[See page .](#)

He lived in Preble County, Ohio on 1 Jul 1870.¹⁶[See page .](#) Benjamin Duggins was listed as a 50 year old male farmer born Ohioon the 1870 census; Also listed in the household was Jane, aged 49, emma E,age 15; Sally A, aged 12 and Fremont, aged 8.

Benjamin sold land being the north part of the NE quarter of section 17 in Township 7 of Range 2 East containing 84.65 acres to Alex F. Hume and Thomas Moore for \$5250 on 27 Aug 1878 in Preble County, Ohio.¹⁷[See page .](#)

He lived in Preble County, Ohio on 1 Jul 1880.¹⁸[See page .](#)¹⁹[See page .](#) Benj Duggins is listed as a 60 year old farmer on the 1900 census. Also listed in the household is Jane, aged 59 and Charles F aged 18.

He received an invalid pension for his service in the Ohio Infantry during the civil war on 12 Mar 1890 in Ohio.²⁰[See page .](#)

Benjamin lived in Butler Township, Mercer County, Ohio in 1890.²¹[See page .](#)

He lived in Geneva Township, Van Buren County, Michigan in 1900.²[See page .](#)

He lived in a National home for disabled veteran soldiers in Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio in 1902.¹⁴[See page .](#)

Benjamin died on 28 Mar 1906 at the age of 87 in Eaton, Preble County, Ohio.¹[See page .](#)³[See page .](#)¹³[See page .](#)²²[See page .](#)²³[See page .](#)

PREBLE COUNTY FARMER DEAD

[Special to The Item.]

Eaton, O., March 30.—Benjamin Duggins, one of the well known farmers of Preble county, died at his home, three miles southwest of Eaton, Wednesday evening, aged 86 years. The funeral will occur from the Christian church Saturday morning, conducted by Rev. H. A. Smith, and under the auspices of Eaton lodge of Odd Fellows and Mulharen-O'Cain Post, G. A. R. Mr. Duggins died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. William Thomas.

He was buried in 1906 at Mound Hill Cemetery in Eaton, Preble County, Ohio.¹[See page .](#)³[See page .](#) **Jane Hunter** was born about 1821 in Ohio.¹[See page .](#)

**PREBLE COUNTY
FARMER DEAD**

[Special to The Item.]

Eaton, O., March 30.—Benjamin Duggins, one of the well known farmers of Preble county, died at his home, three miles southwest of Eaton, Wednesday evening, aged 85 years. The funeral will occur from the Christian church Saturday morning, conducted by Rev. H. A. Smith, and under the auspices of Eaton lodge of Odd Fellows and Mulharen-O'Cain Post, G. A. R. Mr. Duggins died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. William Thomas.

Jane Hunter

She lived at Gasper Twp. in Gasper Township, Preble County, Ohio on 3 Aug 1850.⁶[See page](#). Jane Duggins was listed as a 29 year old white female born Ohio in the household of Benjamin Duggins on the 1850 census. She lived in Gasper Township, Preble County, Ohio on 1 Jul 1860.⁹[See page](#). Jane Duggins was listed as a 39 year old female born Ohio in the household of Benjamin Duggins on the 1860 census.

Jane was the mother of Charles Fremont Duggins who was born on 30 Mar 1862 in Preble County, Ohio.²[See page](#) .¹⁰[See page](#) .

She lived in Preble County, Ohio on 1 Jul 1870.¹⁶[See page](#). Jane Duggins was listed as a 49 year old female born Ohio in the household of Benjamin Duggins on the 1870 census.

She lived in Preble County, Ohio on 1 Jul 1880.¹⁸[See page](#). Jane Duggins was listed as a 59 year old female born Ohio in the household of Benjamin Duggins on the 1880 census.

Jane died on 22 Mar 1900 at the age of 79 in Preble County, Ohio.¹[See page](#) .²²[See page](#) .

She was buried at Mound Hill Cemetery in Eaton, Preble County, Ohio.¹[See page](#) .

ENDNOTES:

1. Joan Bake Brubaker, Mound Hill Union Cemetery Eaton, Ohio. (West Alexandria, Ohio: Brubaker, 1992) p. 94 (Duggins.OH.032)

2. 1900 U.S. Census, Van Buren County, Michigan, population schedule, Geneva Township, Van Buren County, Michigan, ED 142, Sheet 4A, Image 7 of 16, family 79, Charles Duggins; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 13 September 2024)

3. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online 13 September 2024), memorial for Benjamin A. Duggins (1819-1906), Find a Grave Memorial no. 24497188, created by Digger4Genealogy, citing Mound Hill Cemetery, Eaton, Preble county, Ohio;, Benjamin A. Duggins.

4. Preble County Ohio Personal Property Tax List 1827-1842. (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1987) (Duggins.OH.017)

5. Preble County Ohio Personal Property Tax List 1827-1842. (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1987) (Duggins.OH.016)
6. 1850 U.S. Census, Preble County Ohio, population schedule, Gasper Township, Preble County, Ohio, Image 6 of 23, family 539, Benjamin Duggins; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 18 September 2024); National Archives Publication M432
7. Ohio, Preble County. Deeds, 1805-1963. Film #564925 DGS 8588004. Benjamin Duggins, 10 March 1857; Vol. 46: page 412; digital image, Family Search <http://www.familysearch.org> See <http://www.familysearch.org/> : viewed online 14 September 2024.
8. Ohio, Preble County. Deeds, 1805-1963. Film #564925 DGS 8588004. Benjamin Duggins, 3 Sep 1857; Vol. 46: psge 410 (image 545 of 633); digital image, Family Search <http://www.familysearch.org> See <http://www.familysearch.org/> : viewed online 18 September 2024.
9. 1860 U.S. Census, Preble County, Ohio, population schedule, Gasper Township, Preble County, Ohio, page 147, Image 23 of 23, family 1156, Benjamin Duggins; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 18 September 2024); NARA microfilm publication M653
10. Virginia, Death Records, 1912-2014, Charles Fremont Duggins, 22 March 1947; database with images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 14 September 2024).
11. "U.S., Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863-1865,"Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com:&nbs> See <https://www.ancestry.com>: ; accessed 14 September 2024), card for Benjamin Duggins, Preble, Ohio.
12. Historical Data Systems comp, U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865 (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009), Benjamin A. Duggins.
13. "Soldiers' Home," The Dayton Herald (Dayton, Ohio), 25 April 1906, page 12; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 13 September 2024).
14. U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938, Benjamin A Duggins, 1902; database with images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 14 September 2024). Original Source: Historical Register of National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soliders, 1866-1938.
15. Ohio, Preble County. Deeds, 1805-1963. Film #564930 DGS 8588009. Benjamin A. Duggins, 3 Jan 1865; Vol. 55: page 291; digital image, Family Search <http://www.familysearch.org> See <http://www.familysearch.org/> : viewed online 16 September 2024.
16. 1870 U.S. Census, Preble County Ohio, population schedule, Gasper Township, Preble County, Ohio, page 7, Image 4 of 23, family 43, Benjamin Duggins; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 13 September 2024); NARA microfilm publication T132.
17. Ohio, Preble County. Deeds, 1805-1963. Film #564939 DGS 8588017. Benjamin A Duggins, 27 aug 1878; Vol. 71-72: page 320 (image 172); digital image, Family Search <http://www.familysearch.org> See <http://www.familysearch.org/> : viewed online 16 September 2024.
18. Preble County, Ohio 1880 Census. (Uttica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1983) p. 248 (Duggins.OH.031)
19. 1880 U.S. Census, Preble County, Ohio, population schedule, Eaton, Preble County, Ohio, ED 205, page 3, Image 3 of 44, family 34, Benj Duggins; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 14 September 2024); NARA microfilm publication T9
20. U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934, Benjamin A Duggins, 12 March 1890; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 16 September 2024). Original Source:

NARA microfilm publication T288.

21. Special Schedules of the Eleventh Census (1890) Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Benjamin A. Duggins, 1890; database with images, Ancestry.com
<http://www.ancestry.com> See <http://www.ancestry.com/> : viewed online 16 September 2024). Original Source: Special Schedules of the Eleventh Census (1890) Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War.
22. Preble County Ohio Deaths 1867-1907. (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1987) p. 45 (Duggins.OH.090)
23. "Preble County Farmer Dead," The Richmond Item Richmond, Indiana), 30 March 1906, page 4; digital images, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 13 September 2024).
24. "Ohio, Compiled Marriage Index, 1803-1900," , Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 14 September 2024), Benjamin A. Duggins.
25. U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900 database, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com> See <https://www.ancestry.com/>). : viewed online 14 September 2024.
26. "Preble Count, Ohio Marriage Index, 1808-2000," web link, Ancestry.com, <http://www.ancestry.com> See <http://www.ancestry.com/>. (: viewed online 14 September 2024), Benjamin A Duggins.
27. Genealogical & Historical Records of Preble County, Ohio (<http://gen2.pcdl.lib.oh.us> See <http://gen2.pcdl.lib.oh.us/>. : viewed online 14 September 2024), Benjamin A. Duggins.
28. "Ohio, County Marriages, 1774-1993," Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com : Preble County, Ohio, viewed online (16 September 2024), Benjamin A. Duggins.

Friday Find

Today's find is the marriage record for Philip E. Mentzer and Anna M. Schoepflin. (*ChatGPT was used to transcribe this record.*)

MARRIAGE LICENSE RECORD

(Combs Printing Co., St. Joseph, Mo.)

**THE STATE OF KANSAS,
WOODSON COUNTY, ss.**

In the Probate Court in and for Said County and State.

MARRIAGE AFFIDAVIT.

Philip E. Mentzer hereby applies for a **Marriage License** addressed to any minister or magistrate authorized by law to unite in matrimony **Philip E. Mentzer** and **Anna M. Schoefflin**, and being duly sworn, deposes:

That said **Philip E. Mentzer** is aged **28** years, and that said **Anna M. Schoefflin** is aged **26** years; that they have their parents' consent to said union, and that neither has been divorced within six months last past.

That said contracting parties are not related to each other in any of the degrees prohibited by law, namely: Parent and child, grandparent and grandchild in any degree, brother and sister of the whole or the half blood, uncle or niece, aunt or nephew, nor first cousins.

That neither of said parties is or has ever been epileptic, imbecile, feeble-minded, or insane; or, if either is or has been so afflicted, then that is more than forty-five years of age.

And that neither party was born subsequent to the insanity of either of his or her parents, or if so, that the woman about to be married is more than forty-five years of age.

Philip E. Mentzer

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal, at my office in Yates Center, in said County and State, this **23rd day of October A.D. 1905**.

(Signed) **Frank Jackson**, Probate Judge
(SEAL)

**STATE OF KANSAS,
County of Woodson, ss.**

Office of Probate Judge of Said County.

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the **23rd day of October A.D. 1905**, there was issued from the office of said Probate Judge, a Marriage License, of which the following is a true copy:

MARRIAGE LICENSE.

Woodson County, State of Kansas, **October 23rd A.D. 1905.**

No. **96.**

To any Person Authorized by Law to Perform the Marriage Ceremony, Greeting:

You are hereby authorized to join in marriage **Philip E. Mentzer** of **Yates Center**, aged **28 years**, and **Anna M. Schoefflin** of **Yates Center**, aged **26 years**, and of this License you will make due return to my office within thirty days.

(Signed) **J. A. Gregory**, Probate Judge.
(SEAL)

And which said Marriage License was afterwards, to wit, on the **25th day of October A.D. 1905**, returned to said Probate Judge, with the following certificate endorsed thereon, to wit:

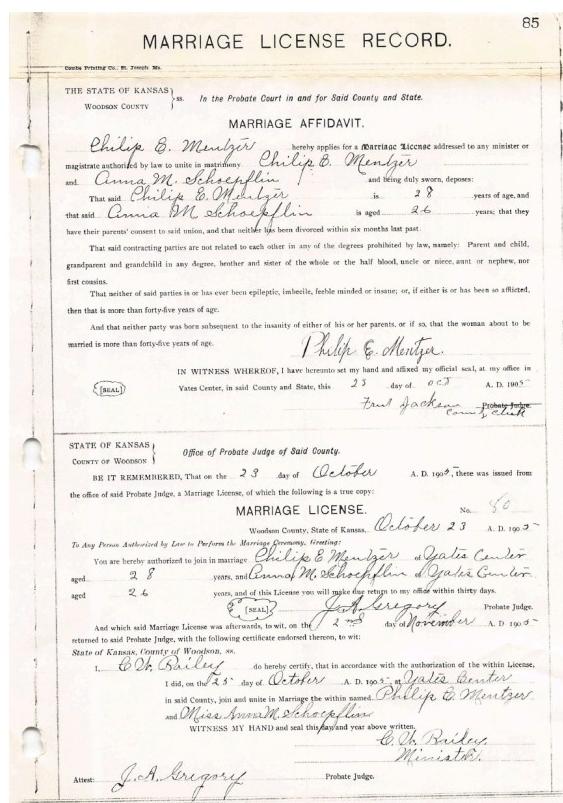
State of Kansas, County of Woodson, ss.

I, **C. H. Bailey**, do hereby certify, that in accordance with the authorization of the within License, I did, on the **25th day of October A.D. 1905**, at **Yates Center**, in said County, join and unite in Marriage the within named **Philip E. Mentzer** and **Miss Anna M. Schoefflin**.

WITNESS MY HAND and seal this **25th day of October A.D. 1905**.

(Signed) **C. H. Bailey**, Minister

Attest: **J. A. Gregory**, Probate Judge.



Saturday Tidbits

As part of Seneca's Oktoberfest celebration, I contributed to creating displays that showcased the stories of German immigrants who settled in Nemaha County, Kansas. One of these displays focused on the immigration journey of Andrew Reineke, chosen because of a family-shared reunion photo featuring the wagon he used during his travels from St. Louis to Nemaha County.

According to family records, Andrew Joseph Reineke, christened Johann Andreas Reineke, was born in 1840 and baptized in Brakel's Catholic Church. In 1867, he set sail from Bremen to New York aboard the ship *Helene*. After settling in St. Louis, Andrew became friends with Josef and Anton Mueller. In 1870, the three men—Andrew and the Mueller brothers—relocated to Seneca, Kansas.

To gather more details about Andrew's journey from Brakel to Seneca, I used Perplexity.ai to research the various stages of his trek. ChatGPT was then utilized to compile and organize that information into the following narrative.

Brakel to Hannover

- *Likely by stage, wagon or on foot*
- 90 to 100 kilometers (55-62 miles)
- Taking 11 to 12.5 hours plus rest stops for horses
- Cost 1-2 groschen per mile or 65 to 130 groschen which converts to 2 to 4 thalers [\$60 to \$200 in 2024 dollars]
- Prussian thaler was currency used before introduction of German gold mark in 1871

Hannover to Bremen

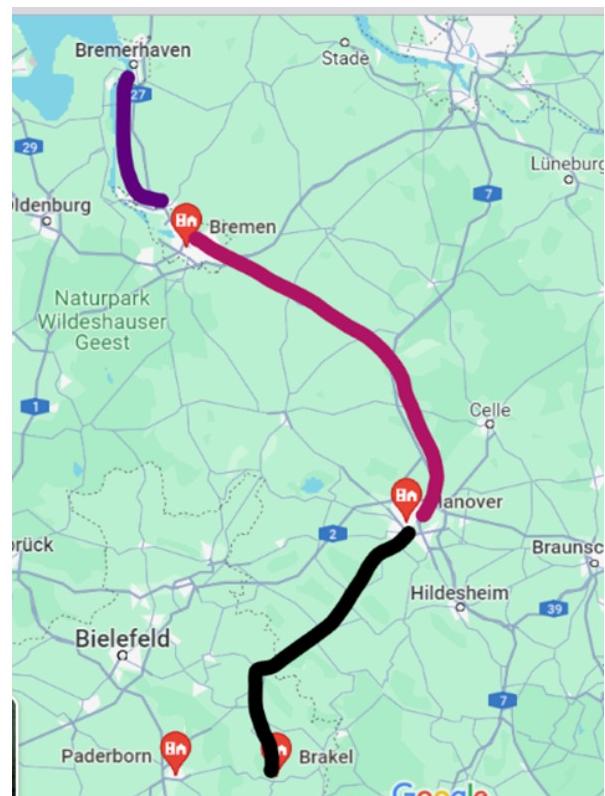
- *Likely by train*
- 120 kilometers (75 miles)
- Train speed of 30 to 40 km/h would require 3 to 4 hours
- Third class tickets ranged from 0.5 to 1 groschen per kilometer
- For 120 kilometer journey : Third class fare of 2 to 4 thalers

Lodging

Basic Boarding house cost—0.5 to 1 thaler per night

Bremen to Bremerhaven

- *Commonly by riverboat*
- 4 to 6 hours
- 0.5 to 1 thaler per person (\$30 to \$50 in 2024 US dollars)





According to family records, 27-year-old Andreas Reineke arrived in New York aboard the ship *Helene* on September 23, 1867. The passenger list for the *Helene* confirms the presence of a 27-year-old male named Andreas Reineke, whose listed occupation was mason.

Saline	28.	♂	Patton	♂	♂	cap. d.	5.
W. Ark. October 26		♂	Salom	Boisduval	♂	cap. d.	5.
Gardner River Mo. 27		♂	Steph	Walckenaer	Missouri	cap. d.	5.
Franz Meyer 26		♂	♂	Walckenaer	Missouri	cap. d.	5.
Freder W. Knobels 35		♂	Parma	Hannover	Cincinnati	cap. d.	5.

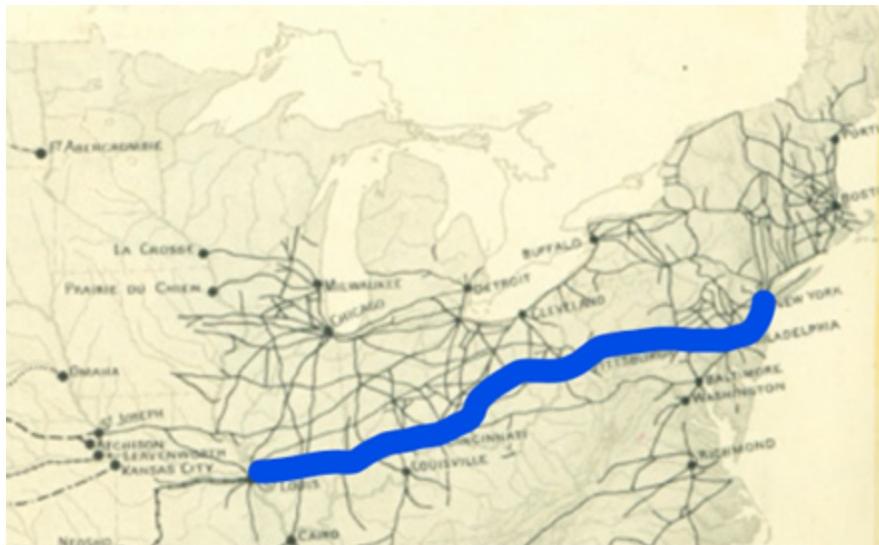
Research conducted through Perplexity offers additional insights into steamship travel during that era.

Travel on Steamship

Steerage Class (Third Class)

- **Cost:** The most economical option, typically used by emigrants, was steerage class. The fare for steerage from Bremen to New York in 1868 was generally between **20 to 40 thalers**.
 - **Accommodations:** Steerage class provided basic accommodations with minimal privacy, and passengers were often responsible for bringing their own food or purchasing it onboard

From New York, Andrew likely traveled by train to St. Louis.



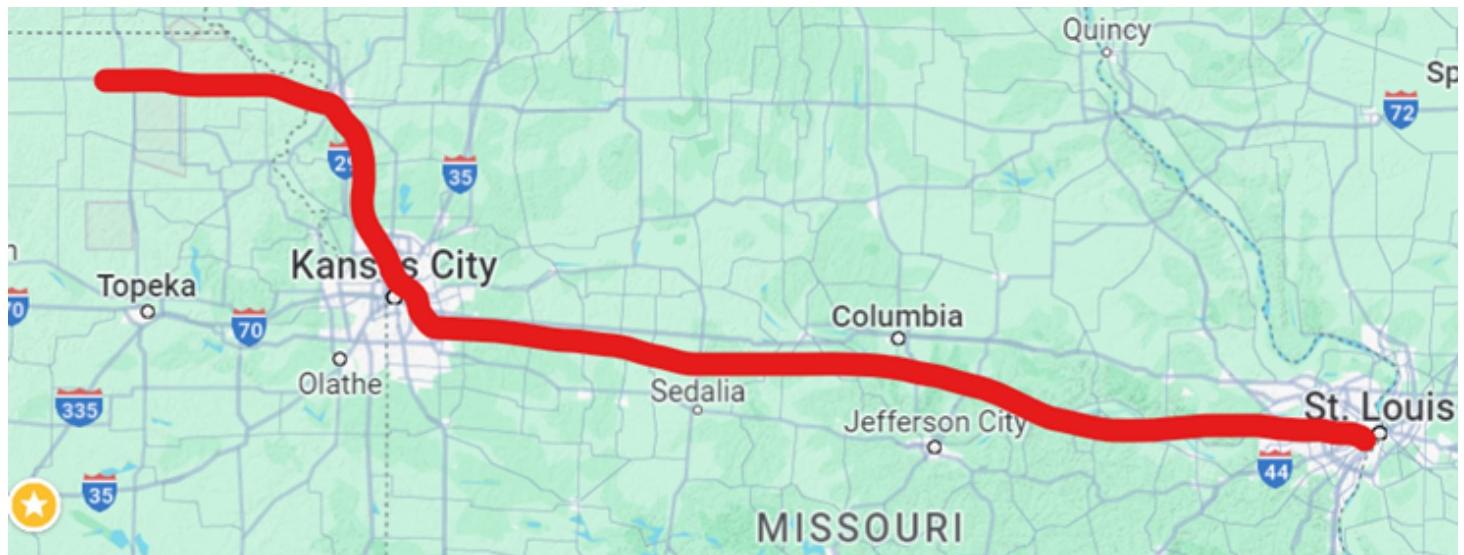
Rail from New York City to St. Louis area in 1869

Third Class

- 1 to 2 cents per mile or \$10 to \$22
- Very Basic Accommodations
- Wooden seats
- Unheated cars

In 1869, the rail journey from New York to St. Louis would have taken approximately **2 to 3 days** (about **33 to 55 hours**), depending on the speed of the train, the number of stops, and any delays encountered along the way. While direct trains may have existed, it's likely that passengers would have needed to make at least one transfer, potentially extending the travel time further.

When Andrew and the Mueller brothers embarked on their journey from St. Louis to Kansas, they needed to purchase a wagon and team for the trip. Using Perplexity.ai, I researched the costs associated with this leg of Andrew's journey.



Costs for a Wagon and Team in 1869:

Wagon:

- **Basic Farm Wagon or Prairie Schooner:** A typical farm wagon or prairie schooner (commonly used for westward migration) could cost between **\$75 to \$150**.
- **Higher-Quality or Custom Wagons:** More durable or specialized wagons could cost **\$150 to \$250** or more, depending on construction, size, and custom features.

Team of Horses or Oxen:

- **Horses:** A team of two horses might cost between **\$100 to \$300** depending on the breed, age, and condition of the horses.
- **Oxen:** Oxen were often used for heavier loads and were generally less expensive than horses. A pair of oxen could cost around **\$50 to \$150**.

Additional Costs:

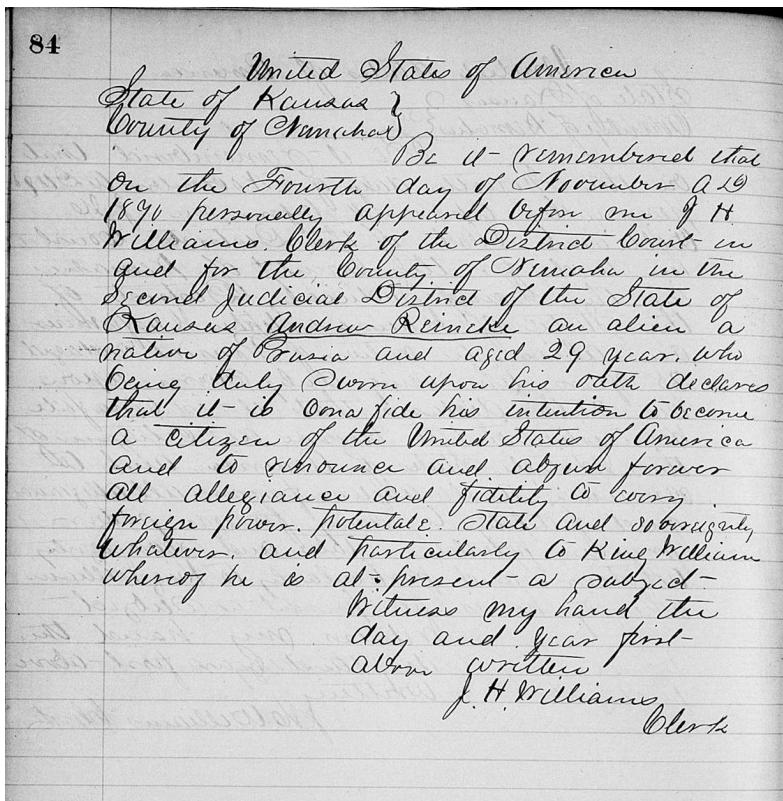
- **Harness and Equipment:** Harnesses, yokes, and other necessary equipment might add another **\$25 to \$50** to the total cost.
- **Supplies:** If the purchaser was preparing for a long journey, they might also need to buy supplies (e.g., food, tools, spare parts), which could add several more dollars to the overall expense.

Traveling by wagon from St. Louis, Missouri, to Seneca, Kansas, in 1869 would have been a challenging journey, covering roughly 300 to 350 miles.

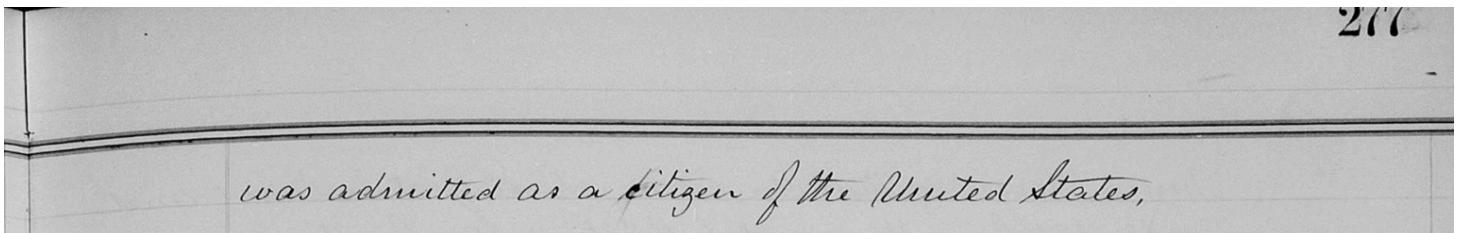
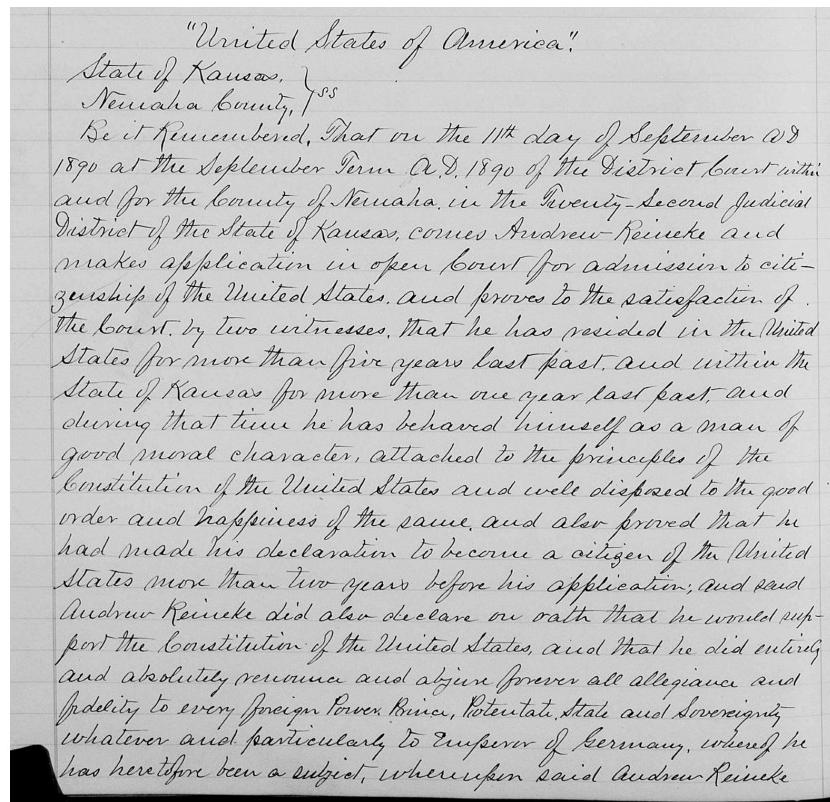
Estimated Travel Time:

- **Average Daily Distance:** A typical wagon could travel about 10 to 20 miles per day. This rate accounts for the need to rest the animals, set up and break down camp, and navigate difficult terrain.
- **Total Distance:** The distance between St. Louis and Seneca is approximately 300 to 350 miles.
- **Calculation: At 10 miles per day:** The journey would take about **30 to 35 days**.

On Nov. 4, 1870, Andrew Reineke declared his intention to be naturalized.



On 11 Sep 1890, Andrew Reineke was admitted as a citizen of the United States.



Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

Calling all Genea-Musings See <https://www.geneamusings.com/>. Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Come on, everybody, join in and accept the mission and execute it with precision.

1) Which ancestor of yours married the most times?

To figure this out in RootsMagic, I simply scanned thru my 4th great grandparents looking for multiple marriages. Based on that search, my second great grandfather, Richmond Flisk Hammond was married the most at 3 times.

2nd Greats

- **Richmond Hammond: Sarah Ralston / Mary McClure / Mary Grim**
- Albert Hutchinson: Julia Harding / Honore Eliza Van Valkenburg
- Sarah Thompson: Noah Briles / J. D. Davis
- Thurston Wells: Sarah Hall / Salome Crandall

3rd Greats

- Zebulon Foster: Caroline Ostrander / Juliet Fleming
- William G Harding: Elizabeth Fowler / Eliza Henderson
- Alexander Briles" Sarah Rush / Elizabeth Ellsworth
- Lewis Crandall: Almira Nafus / Anna Tuttle

4th Greats

- Sarah Smith: Alexander Duggins / James Crawford
- Edward Ostrander: Margaret Forbes / Margery Sharp
- James McCormick / unknown / Sarah Hall
- Hiram Currey: Sarah Reagan / Elizabeth
- John Burke: Ann Elizabeth Graves / Jane Basham
- Whiting Merry: Elizabeth Peabody / Rosina Biglow / Sarah Frost
- John Briles: Namcy Beckerdite / Rachel Beckerdite
- Mary Buckles: John Rogers / John Reed

Thanks to Randy's post, I was able to locate the Family Statistics on My Heritage. Since my RootsMagic file contains several family lines in addition to my own, the statistics reflect that file and not just my tree. The two individuals 'married the most' are not my ancestors but spouses of siblings of an ancestor.

X

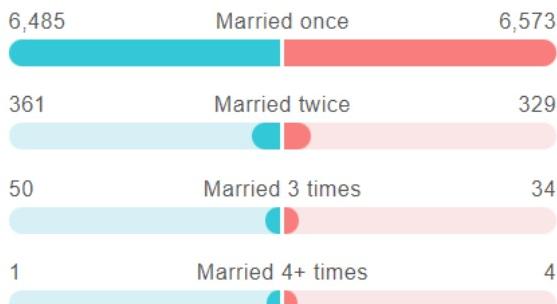
Number of marriages

13,837 people who married

Average

1.1 1.1

● Males ● Females



Married the most

13,837 people who married

Male



Married 4 times

[Dr. Daniel DeVinney Rose](#)

Relative

Married: Celia Carrie Crawford

Female



Married 6 times

[Honore Eliza Nolen \(born Van Valkenberg\)](#)

Great-great-grandfather's wife

Married: Osceola Phay

Henry Duggins

Henry J. Duggins was born on December 6, 1821, in Preble County, Ohio. He spent his early years in Ohio, being listed on the tax rolls in Washington Township between 1848 and 1850. By 1850, he lived in Washington Township, in the household of William A. Duggins. On February 6, 1851, Henry married Mildred Patterson in Indiana. Together, they embarked on a life centered around family and farming.

Mildred Patterson was born on September 3, 1830, in Lexington, Virginia. She and Henry began their married life in Ohio, and soon welcomed their first child, Alice Amanda Duggins, born on November 10, 1851. In 1855, the family moved to Elmwood, Peoria County, Illinois, where their second child, Mary C. Duggins, was born on December 10, 1855.

Henry was a farmer and purchased land in Ohio before eventually selling it in 1857 and moving permanently to Illinois. By 1860, the family had settled in Elmwood, Peoria County, Illinois, where their son, William Henry Duggins, was born on January 17, 1869.

Henry worked as a farmer for most of his life, and the family appeared in several census records, with Henry often listed as a farmer or retired farmer. He lived a long life and passed away on September 21, 1901, at the age of 79. He was buried at the Elmwood Township Cemetery in Elmwood, Illinois.

Mildred continued to live in Elmwood, Peoria County, Illinois, well into her later years. She appeared in census records through 1920 and passed away on February 22, 1922, at the remarkable age of 91. She was buried beside her husband in Elmwood Township Cemetery.

Children of Henry and Mildred Duggins

1. **Alice Amanda Duggins** (b. November 10, 1851 – d. March 10, 1924)
 - Spouse: James Orrin Aby (m. September 19, 1877)
2. **Mary C. Duggins** (b. December 10, 1855 – d. August 12, 1947)
 - Spouse: Jasper Howard (m. October 27, 1880)
3. **William Henry Duggins** (b. January 17, 1869 – d. March 13, 1943)
 - Spouse: Adelia Cora Wakefield (m. July 4, 1885)

The above narrative was written by ChatGPT using the RootsMagic narrative report for Henry J Duggins. Below is the RootsMagic report complete with the sources.

Henry J. Duggins was born on 6 Dec 1821 in Preble County, Ohio.¹ See page .² See page .

He was listed on the tax rolls between 1848 and 1850 in Washington Township, Preble, Ohio, United States.³ See page .

He lived in Washington Township, Preble, Ohio, United States on 29 Jul 1850.⁴ See page . Henry Duggins was listed as a 28 year old white male born Ohio on the 1850 census in the household of Wm a. Duggins.

Henry was the father of Alice Amanda Duggins who was born on 10 Nov 1851 in Preble County, Ohio.⁵ See page .⁶ See page .

He was the father of Mary C Duggins who was born on 10 Dec 1855 in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States.⁷ See page .⁸ See page .

He purchased land being 84 66/100 acres in N part SE 1/4 and S part NE 1/4 S17T7R2 from William A. Duggins and his wife Sally on 10 Mar 1857 in Preble County, Ohio.¹⁰[See page](#).

Henry sold land land being 84 66/100 acres in N part SE 1/4 and S pt NE 1/4 S17T7R2 to Benjamin A. Duggins for \$3380 on 11 Jun 1857 in Preble County, Ohio.¹¹[See page](#). land being 84 66/100 acres in N part SE 1/4 and S pt NE 1/4 S17T7R2 to Benjamin A. Duggins for \$3380

He lived in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1860.¹²[See page](#).¹³[See page](#). Henry Duggins is listed as a 39 year old male on the 1860 census. Also listed in the household is Mildred, Alice, Mary, and Henry.

He was the father of William Henry Duggins who was born on 17 Jan 1869 in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States.¹⁴[See page](#).

Henry lived in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1870.¹⁵[See page](#). H. J. Duggins is listed as a 48 year old farmer on the 1870 census. Also listed in the household is his 39 year old wife, Mildred; 18 year old female, Alice; 14 year old female Mary S and 10 year old male William.

He lived in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1880.¹⁶[See page](#). Henry Duggins is listed as a 59 year old retired farmer on the 1880 census. Also listed in the household is his 48 year old wife, Mildred; 24 year old daughter, Mary; and 20 year old son, William.

He lived in Elmwood Township, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1900.¹⁷[See page](#). Henry Duggins was listed as a 78 year old male born December 1821 in Kentucky on the 1900 census. Also in the household was his wife Mildred and daughter Mary Howard.

Henry died on 21 Sep 1901 at the age of 79 in Illinois.¹[See page](#).

He was buried at Elmwood Township Cemetery in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States.¹[See page](#).

Henry J. Duggins and Mildred Patterson were married on 6 Feb 1851 in Indiana, United States.¹⁸[See page](#).²¹[See page](#).

Mildred Patterson was born on 3 Sep 1830 in Lexington, Virginia, United States.²²[See page](#).

She was the mother of Alice Amanda Duggins who was born on 10 Nov 1851 in Preble County, Ohio.⁵[See page](#).⁶[See page](#).

She was the mother of Mary C Duggins who was born on 10 Dec 1855 in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States.⁷[See page](#).⁹[See page](#).

Mildred lived in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1860.¹²[See page](#). Mildred Duggins is listed as a 20 year old female in the household of Henry Duggins.

She was the mother of William Henry Duggins who was born on 17 Jan 1869 in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States.¹⁴[See page](#).

She lived in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1870.¹⁵[See page](#). Mildred Duggins was listed as a 39 year old wife of H. J. Duggins on the 1870 census.

Mildred lived in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1880.¹⁶[See page](#).

She lived in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1910.²³[See page](#).

She lived in Elmwood Township, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1920.²⁴[See page](#).

Mildred died on 22 Feb 1922 at the age of 91 in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States.²²[See page](#).

She was buried on 28 Feb 1922 in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States.²²[See page](#). Henry J. Duggins and Mildred Patterson had the following children:

11. **Alice Amanda Duggins** was born on 10 Nov 1851 in Preble County, Ohio.⁵[See page](#).⁻⁶[See page](#).

She lived in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1860.¹²[See page](#). Alice is listed as an 8 year old in the household of Henry Duggins on the 1860 census.

She lived in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1870. Alice A. Cuttings was listed as an 18 year old female in the household of H. J. Daggins on the 1870 census.

Alice lived in Millbrook Township, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1880.²⁵[See page](#).

She lived in Radnor Township, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1900.²⁶[See page](#).

She lived in Princeville Township, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1910.²⁷[See page](#).

Alice lived in Princeville, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1920.²⁸[See page](#).

She died on 10 Mar 1924 at the age of 72 in Princeville, Peoria, Illinois, United States.⁵[See page](#).⁻⁶[See page](#).

She was buried on 12 Mar 1924 at Princeville Township Cemetery in Princeville, Peoria, Illinois, United States.⁵[See page](#).

Alice Amanda Duggins and James Orrin Aby were married on 19 Sep 1877.⁵[See page](#).

James Orrin Aby was born on 5 Nov 1854 in Peoria, Illinois.

He lived in Millbrook Township, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1880.²⁵[See page](#).

He lived in Radnor Township, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1900.²⁶[See page](#).

James lived in Princeville Township, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1910.²⁷[See page](#).

He lived in Princeville, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1920.²⁸[See page](#).

He died on 17 May 1937 at the age of 82 in Princeville, Peoria, Illinois, United States.

James was buried on 19 May 1937 in Princeville, Peoria, Illinois, United States.

12. **Mary C Duggins** was born on 10 Dec 1855 in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States.⁷[See page](#).⁻⁹[See page](#).

She lived in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1860.¹²[See page](#) . Mary is listed as a 4 year old in the household of Henry Duggins on the 1860 census.

She lived in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1870.¹⁵[See page](#) . Mary C Duggins was listed on teh 1870 census as a 14 year old female int he household of H. J. Daggins.

Mary lived in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1880.¹⁶[See page](#) .

She lived in Elmwood Township, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1900.¹⁷[See page](#) .

She lived in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1910.²³[See page](#) .

Mary lived in Elmwood Township, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1920.²⁴[See page](#) .

She died on 12 Aug 1947 at the age of 91 in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States.⁸[See page](#) .⁻⁹[See page](#) .

She was buried on 14 Aug 1947 in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States.⁸[See page](#) .⁻⁹[See page](#) .²⁹[See page](#) .

Mary C Duggins and Jasper Howard were married on 27 Oct 1880 in Peoria County, Illinois.⁷[See page](#) .

Jasper Howard was born in Feb 1855 in Farmington, Fulton, Illinois, United States.

He was buried at Elmwood Township Cemetery in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States.³⁰

13. **William Henry Duggins** lived in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1860.¹²[See page](#) . Henry is listed as a 4 month old in the household of Henry Duggins on teh 1860 census.

He was born on 17 Jan 1869 in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States.¹⁴[See page](#) .

He lived in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1870.¹⁵[See page](#) . William Duggins was listed as a 10 year old male in the household of H. J. Daggins on the 1870 census.

William lived in Elmwood, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1880.¹⁶[See page](#) .

He died on 13 Mar 1943 at the age of 74 in Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois.

He was buried on 16 Mar 1943 in Dickison Cemetery, Dunlap, Peoria, Illinois, United States.

William Henry Duggins and Adelia Cora Wakefield were married on 4 Jul 1885 in Peoria County, Illinois.¹⁴[See page](#) .

Adelia Cora Wakefield was born on 4 Jul 1866 in Peoria County, Illinois.

She died on 1 Jul 1941 at the age of 74 in Radnor Township, Peoria, Illinois, United States.

She was buried in Dickison Cemetery, Dunlap, Peoria, Illinois, United States.

ENDNOTES:

1. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online 19 September 2024), memorial for Henry J Duggins (1821-1901), Find a Grave Memorial no. 62439855, created by searcher

maintained by Clayton P, citing Elmwood Township Cemetery, Elmwood, Peoria County, Illinois; accompanying photograph by Clayton P, Henry J Duggins.

2. "U.S., Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863-1865," Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com/>; See <https://www.ancestry.com/> ; accessed 19 September 2024), card for Henry Duggins, Peoria, Illinois.
3. Preble County Ohio Personal Property Tax List 1827-1842. (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1987) (Duggins.OH.016)
4. 1850 U.S. Census, Preble County Ohio, population schedule, Washington Township, Preble County, Ohio, page 264, Image 36 of 42, family 459, Wm A Duggins; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 26 August 2022); National Archives Publication M432
5. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online 23 September 2024), memorial for Alice Amanda Duggins Abby (1851-1924), Find a Grave Memorial no. 26908035, created by John Melton / Maintained by Stephen Cantrell, citing Princeville Township Cemetery, Princeville, Peoria County, Illinois; accompanying photograph by TReed, Alice Amanda Duggins Abby.
6. "Illinois, Deaths and Stillbirths Index 1916-1947," database online, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 23 September 2024), Alice Duggins Abby.
7. "Illinois, County Marriages, 1800-1940," database, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 23 September 2024), Jasper Howard / Mary Duggin.
8. "Illinois, Deaths and Stillbirths Index 1916-1947," database online Mary Duggins Howard.
9. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online 23 September 2024), memorial for Mary Duggins Howard (1855-1947), Find a Grave Memorial no. 58523727,
10. Ohio, Preble County. Deeds, 1805-1963. Film #564925 DGS 8588004. William A. Duggens, 10 Mar 1857; Vol. 46: page 408-409; digital image, Family Search <http://www.familysearch.org> See <http://www.familysearch.org/> : viewed online August 2022.
11. Ohio, Preble County. Deeds, 1805-1963. Film #564925 DGS 8588004. Benjamin Duggins, 3 Sep 1857; Vol. 46: psge 410 (image 545 of 633); digital image, Family Search <http://www.familysearch.org> See <http://www.familysearch.org/> : viewed online 18 September 2024.
12. 1860 U.S. Census, Peoria County, Illinois, population schedule, Elmwood, Peoria County, Illinois, page 189, Image 24 of 47, family 1347, Henry Duggins; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 19 September 2024)
13. U.S. Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880, Henry Duggins, 1860; database with images, Ancestry.com (ancestry.com : viewed online 19 September 2024).
14. "Illinois, County Marriages, 1800-1940," database Will H Duggins.
15. 1870 U.S. Census, Peoria County, Illinois, population schedule, Elmwood, Peoria County, Illinois, page 39, Image 39 of 61, family 311, H J Duggins; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 19 September 2024); NARA microfilm publication T132
16. 1880 U.S. census, Peoria County, Illinois, population schedule, Elmwood, Peoria County, Illinois, ED 192, Sheet 33, Image 33 of 33, family 336, Henry Duggins; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 21 September 2024)

17. 1900 U. S. Census, Peoria County Illinois, population schedule, Elmwood Township, Peoria County, Illinois, ED 74, Sheet 13B, Image 26 of 32, family 339, Henry Duggins; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 19 September 2024)
18. "Indiana, Marriages, 1810-2001," database, Ancestry, (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 19 September 2024), Henry J Duggins.
19. "Indiana, Marriage Index, 1800-1941," Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : County Court Records at Williamsport, IN, Morgan County, Indiana, viewed online (19 September 2024), Henry J Duggins.
20. Indiana, Morgan County. Marriage Licenses, Circuit Court, Vol. B Apr 9, 1842 – Apr 10, 1851. Film #2419996 item 2 dgs 7578353. Henry Duggins, 6 Feb 1851; vol. B: pae 572; digitized images, FamilySearch <http://www.familysearch.org>See <http://www.familysearch.org/> : viewed online 19 September 2024.
21. U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900 database, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com>See <https://www.ancestry.com/>). : viewed online 19 September 2024.
22. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online 21 September 2024), memorial for Mildred Patterson Duggins (1830-1922), Find a Grave Memorial no. 62439917, created by searcher / maintained by Clayton P, citing Elmwood Township Cemetery, Elmwood Peoria County, Illinois; accompanying photograph by Clayton P, Mildred Patterson Duggins.
23. 1910 U.S. Census, Peoria County, Illinois, population schedule, Elmwood Township, Peoria County, Illinois, ED 54, Sheet 2B, Image 4 of 7, family 61, Mildred Duggins; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 21 September 2024)
24. 1920 U.S. Census, Peoria County, Illinois, population schedule, Elmwood Township, Peoria County, IL, ED 51, Sheet 2A, Image 3 of 25, family 46, Mildred Duggins; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : Viewed online 21 September 2024)
25. 1880 U.S. census, Peoria County, Illinois, population schedule, Millbrook Township, Peoria County, Illinois, ED 200, Page 13, Family 101, James O Aby.
26. 1900 U. S. Census, Peoria County Illinois, population schedule, Radnor Township, Peoria County, Illinois, ED 122, Sheet 7B, Family 134, James O Aby.
27. 1910 U.S. Census, Peoria County, Illinois, population schedule, Princeville Township, Peoria County, Illinois, ED 108, Sheet 16A, family 148, James O Aby.
28. 1920 U.S. Census, Peoria County, Illinois, population schedule, Princeville, Peoria County, Illinois, ED 135, Sheet 3A, family 49, James O Aby.
29. "Locals," The Paxton Record (Paxton, Illinois), 14 August 1947, page 9; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 23 September 2024).
30. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online 23 September 2024), memorial for Jasper Howard (? – ?), Find a Grave Memorial no. 9584484

War News

Navy in Quick Moves, His Addresses Show

Sheriff Pete Bieri had *The Courier-Tribune* sent to Harry Bieri, on the U.S.S. *Hamman*, a light cruiser, to San Diego address three weeks ago. The address was changed this week to New York City, from which the navy mail is distributed along the east coast. Harry had written from Philadelphia. His letter home stated he was not able to say where his vessel was going or for how long but that he would drop postcards, so the censor would have no trouble. This indication of censorship is the first that has appeared that mail from Uncle Sam's forces is being inspected. It is a war move.

from the Courier Tribune (Seneca, KS) 19 June 1941

**TO REGISTER
MEN JULY 1.
—
ALL WHO REACH 21
—
~~Registration Will Be
At Selective Service Office
In Seneca~~**

TO REGISTER MEN JULY 1, ALL WHO REACH 21

Registration Will Be At Selective Service Office In Seneca

It becomes the duty of each young man who did not register in the last selective service registration, and has since reached the age of 21, or will reach it on or before July 1, to present himself for registration on that date.

Registration office for the entire county will be at the selective service office, west of Jack's Market and across the street from the city hall, Seneca.

The office will be open July 1 from 7:00 in the morning until 9:00 in the evening.

Governor Payne Ratner, in proclaiming registration day, asks that employers arrange so that men working for them will have the time necessary for registration.

While but one registration office for the entire county will make considerable driving necessary from other places, it is not practical to have scattered registration places. There will probably be less than 100 persons to

register.

The last registration, October 16, covered 15 years of age, men from 21 to 36. Approximately 1700 men registered. This is a little over 100 for each year in the age group.

The new registration covers even less than one year, approximately eight and a half months.

No Order on Numbering

The local board does not yet have information as to how new registrants are to be numbered for draft call. They might be added to the foot of the present list, or sandwiched between present numbers, or quotas might be set up for the new registrants.

July Call for 12 Men

Kansas has a large draft quota for July. The Nemaha board has received a "warning call" announcing that it may expect to furnish 12 men in July.

Proceeding with Questionnaires

The board continues to send questionnaire blanks to men who were in the first registration. Total of 1136 blanks had been sent out Monday night of this week.

The local board has some information about its "gross quota." It has been revised higher. The gross quota now stated for Nemaha is 314 men. It is estimated that the county now has a surprising total of 231 men in branches of the service other than this year's training and with other credits a net quota of 81 men is set for Nemaha county at the present time. This is a jump from an earlier net quota of 31.

from the Courier Tribune (Seneca, KS) 19 Jun 1941

The Draft to Require From Kansas, 12,134 Men

Kansas has been assigned a new draft quota of 12,134 men by national selective service headquarters, Adjutant General McLean announced Monday.

This includes the 4,657 men already inducted into service. The quota does not run for a definite period; it merely indicates the maximum number to be called until a new quota is assigned.

The state was given a gross quota of 33,269 as its share of the nation's armed forces. However, there are 21,135 Kansans in the regular army, Navy, National Guard, and Marine Corps so the draft has to furnish 12,134.

from the Courier Tribune (Seneca, KS) 19 June 1941

Dots Redo

Have you ever revisited a genealogy task to make improvements? For me, it's usually about refining sources to ensure their accuracy. Recently, while participating in [Your DNA Guide](https://www.yourdnaguide.com/) See <https://www.yourdnaguide.com/>.s DNA Study Group, I realized that I hadn't fully understood the concept of "dots" in organizing DNA matches. This led to a less effective use of the tool in my research.

Initially, I applied colored dots to both my 2nd and 3rd great-grandparent couples, as well as to the shared matches of my close cousins. However, this approach created too many dots, making it difficult to interpret relationships.

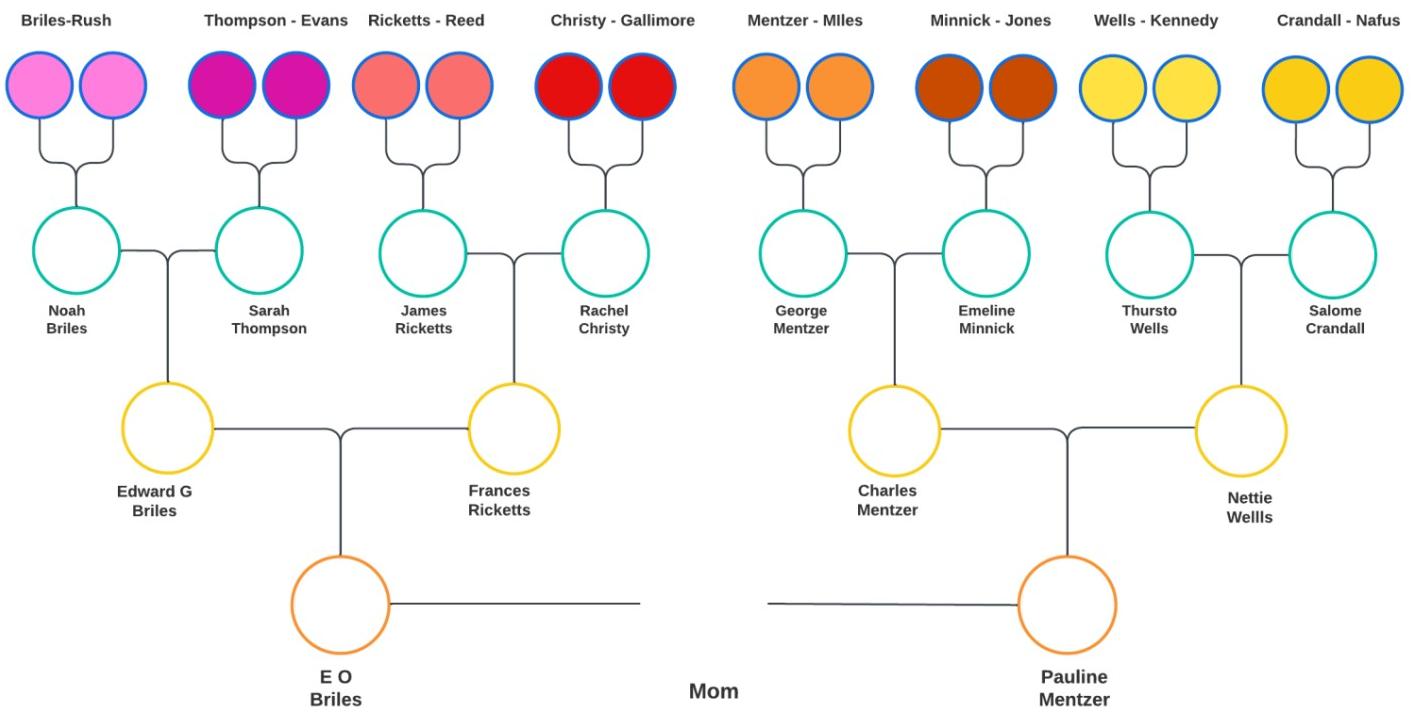
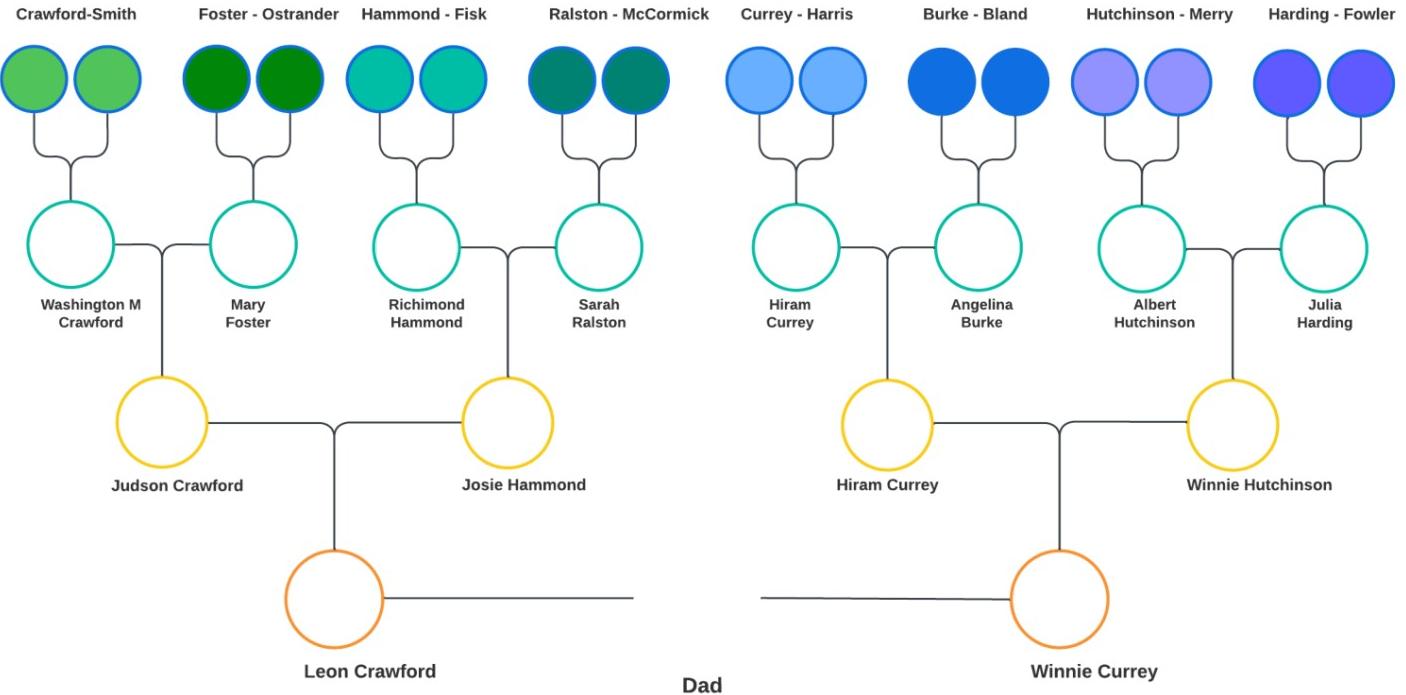
AncestryDNA Group Color Chart

3c Wells Crandall	3c Mentzer Minnick	3c Ricketts Christy	3c Briles Thompson	3c Hutchinson Harding	3c Currey Burke	3c Hammond Ralston	3c Crawford Foster
4c Wells Kennedy	4c Mentzer Miles	4c Ricketts Reed	4c Briles Rush	4c Hutchinson Merry	4c Currey Harris	4c Hammond Fisk	4c Crawford Smith
4c Crandall Nafus	4c Minnick Jones	4c Christy Gallimore	4c Thompson Evans	4c Harding Fowler	4c Burke Bland	4c Ralston McCormick	4c Foster Ostrander

So, I've decided to start over! Now, I'm focusing on my 3rd great-grandparent couples to identify matches through the siblings of my 2nd great-grandparents or known matches. Shared matches of these known individuals are getting a dot. As I go through this process, I'm keeping a few key "rules" for dotting in mind:

- **Everyone gets a dot:** Even close cousins, like my parents' first cousins, will receive dots when they share DNA with 4th cousin matches.
- **Don't remove a dot:** Even if it's from a different side of the tree, it stays.

Below, you'll find diagrams showing the group names and colors assigned to the dots.



If a match receives only a Crawford-Smith dot without a dot from any other group, it indicates that their DNA connection is somewhere along my James Crawford/Martha Smith ancestral line. However, if they have both a Crawford-Smith dot and a Foster-Ostrander dot, it suggests they are more closely related, as they share DNA through multiple lines. If they receive both a green and a pink dot, it provides a clue that my paternal and maternal ancestors may have crossed paths at some point.

Now that I have a clearer understanding of how the dots work, it's time to go back and reapply them!

William Duggins Will

Thanks to FamilySearch's experimental labs, I quickly and easily discovered the will of William N. Duggins, one of Sarah Smith Duggins Crawford's grandsons.

Preble County Ohio

Record of Wills: Preble. Wills 1870-1881
image 192 of 334

Wills v. E-F 1870-1890
Film 564862 DGS 005868429

Page 336-337

William N. Duggin ' s Will .
the State of Ohio Preble County S. S .
Proceeding had in the Probate Court of said County
and State of Ohio before the Hon J W King sole Judge of Court
On the 27 day of November A. D . 1875 .
In the matter of William N. Duggins Will .
This day came Sarah A Duggins and produced in
Court for Probate and record the Last Will and Testament
of her late husband William N. Duggins deceased late of said
County , and thereupon came Josias Marshall and Thos J.
Larch , the subscribing witnesses to said will , who being first
duly sworn , on oath testified to the proper execution of said
will , and their testimony was reduced to writing , signed
by said witnesses and filed with said will , and the Court
finds from said testimony , that said will was duly
signed , acknowledged , and attested and that the testator
was , at the time he so made his said will of full age

387

William N. Duggin ' s Will

of sound and disposing mind , memory and judgement and not labor
ing under any unlawful restraint . It is thereupon by the Court
ordered that said will be , and the same hereby is admitted to probate
And thereupon came said Sarah A. Duggins who is named in said will
as Executrix , and caused it to appear to the Court , that said will direct
the omission of a Bond on her part as such Executrix : it is there
fore ordered that said Sarah A. Duggins be and hereby is appointed
Executrix of said Will .

J W King . Probate Judge .

The State of Ohio Preble County S. S .
Personally appeared in open Court , T. J. Parch and
Josias Marsham the subscribing witnesses of the Last Will and
Testament of said William N Duggins who is now deceased ,
who being duly sworn and affirmed according to law to speak the
truth and nothing but the truth , in relation to the execution of

said Will , depose and say that they were present at the making of said Will , and at the request of said deceased , subscribed their names to said Will , as witnesses , in the presence of the deceased , and of each other ; that they saw the said William N. Duggins deceased , sign and seal said Will , and heard him acknowledge the same to be his Last Will and Testament ; that the said William N. Duggins was , at the time of making , signing and sealing said Will , of legal age and of sound and disposing mind , memory and judgement and under no undue or unlawful restraint whatsoever . Subscribed in my presence , and sworn to before me , in open Court , this 27 " day of Nov . A. D . 1875 J W. King

Josias Marshall
Thos J Larsh .

Probate Judge of Preble County Ohio .
Last Will and Testament of Wm N. Duggins of Preble County
Be it remembered , that I William N. Duggins , of Preble
County and State of Ohio , of lawful age , do hereby ordain
and establish this my last Will and Testament , as
follows :

Item first , I give and bequeath to my beloved wife , Sarah Ann Duggin ' s , the farm on which we now reside , in Dixon township , Preble County , Ohio being the North West quarter of Section No thirteen , of said township , containing 160 acres of land moree or less, to have and to hold to her own individual use and benefit , during her natural life , if she should so long remain my widow Also , the West half of the North West quarter of section No Ten (10) Town ship No 7 (seven) of Range No 2 East , in Preble County , containing eighty acres , more or less , to have and to hold to her own individual use and benefit during the minority of my son Isaac Robert Duggins , Also I give and bequeath to my said wife , in lieu of the statutory provision for her years support , all the residue of my

image 193 of 334
page 338

William N. Duggins Will
Chattel estate , after the payment of all just claims , and the discharge of the several legacies hereinafter mentioned .
Item 2d I hereby give and bequeath to my son Isaac Robert Duggins , the West half of the North West quarter of section No . ten in Township No 10 in township No (7) seven of Range No . 2 . E. above mentioned , containing eighty acres of land , more or less ; and direct that he be placed in possession thereof on his attaining the age of twenty one years
Item 3d I hereby give and bequeath to my son James H Duggins in addition to advances heretofore made to him , or hereafter to be made him , the sum of one thousand dollars , And to my son William T. Duggins , in addition to advances heretofore

or hereafter to be , made to him , the sum of one thousand dollars . And to my daughter Mary D. Kincaid , with the like proviso , the sum of one thousand dollars ; which several legacies shall be paid to them by my Executor hereinafter appointed , as soon as the necessary funds shall come into his hands from my estate .

Item 4th I give and bequeath to my son Elmer E Duggins the North half of the North West quarter of section No thirteen (13) in township No Seven (7) of Range No One East , containing eighty acres , more or less , to take possession thereof upon the termination of the above bequest to my wife in the first item thereof .

Item 4th I give and bequeath to my daughter Cora H Duggins the South half of the said North West quarter of section No thirteen Township Range No One East , Containing eighty acres , more or less , to take possession thereof upon the termination of said bequest to my wife in the first item of this instrument .

Item 5th I hereby appoint my beloved wife , Sarah Ann Duggins , as the Executor of this my last will and Testament and direct that she be exonerated from giving bond , as provided by law , as such executor . And I hereby ordain and establish the above and foregoing as my last will and testament , hereby revoking all former wills and codicils whatsoever .

In witness whereof , I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal , this twenty seventh day of September A. D . 1875 . William N. Duggins ® Signed and acknowledged , by the above named William N. Duggins in our presence , and signed by us in his presence and at his request

Josias Marshall
Thos J. Larch .

Friday Find

Continuing my journey through my MENTZER notebook, today's discovery is an obituary clipping for **Susie May Tunnicliff**, daughter of **George Mentzer**. Thanks to the invaluable efforts of the **Kansas State Historical Society** to [digitize Kansas newspapers](#) See <https://www.kshs.org/p/kansas-digital-newspaper-program/16126.>, I was able to locate this obituary online, along with two other related clippings concerning **Susan Mentzer Tunnicliff**.

The first article provides a brief notice of her passing.

Geo. Mentzer of West Center received a telegram Wednesday afternoon that his daughter, Mrs. Susie Tunnicliff, had died that morning at her home in Iowa. The body will be brought here for burial, which will probably be Saturday or Sunday.

Death notice, Yates Center Argus (Yates Center, Kansas), 8 January 1909, page 4; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 19 October 2024).

Her obituary appeared in two newspapers from Woodson County, Kansas.

TUNNICLIFF

Susie May Mentzer was born Feb. 18, 1873, near Yates Center, Kansas. She became a member of the M. E. church of Yates Center at the age of eighteen.

She grew to womanhood in Woodson county, Kansas and was married to Edward Tunnicliff, of Shenandoah, Iowa, on Sept. 29, 1902, and removed from Yates Center to that place where she has resided since, and she died Jan. 6, 1909, at Shenandoah, aged 35 years, 10 months and 6 days. She leaves a husband, father, mother, one sister and six brothers to mourn her loss.

The body was brought here for burial in the Yates Center cemetery. Funeral services were conducted at the family residence Friday afternoon by Rev. H. A. Church.

"Tunnicliff," Woodson County Advocate (Yates Center, Kansas), 22 January 1909, page 5; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 19 October 2024).

TUNNICLIFF

Susie May Mentzer was born Feb. 18 1873, near Yates Center, Kansas. She became a member of the M. E. church of Yates Center at the age of eighteen.

She grew to womanhood in Woodson county, Kansas and was married to Edward Tunnicliff, of Shenandoah, Iowa, on Sept. 29, 1902, and removed from Yates Center to that place where she has resided since, and she died Jan. 6, 1909, at Shenandoah, aged 35 years, 10 months and 6 days. She leaves a husband, father, mother, one sister and six brothers to mourn her loss.

The body was brought here for burial in the Yates Center cemetery. Funeral services were conducted at the family residence Friday afternoon by Rev. H. A. Church.

Obituary**Tunnicliffe**

Susie May Mentzer was born Feb. 18, 1873, near Yates Center, Kansas. She became a member of the M.E. church of Yates Center at the age of eighteen.

She grew to womanhood in Woodson county, Kansas, and was married to Edward Tunnicliff, of Shenandoah, Iowa, on Sept. 29, 1902, and removed from Yates Center to that place where she has resided since, and she died Jan. 6, 1909, at Shenandoah, aged 35 years, 10 months and 6 days. She leaves a husband, father, mother, one sister and six brothers to mourn her loss.

The body was brought here for burial in the Yates Center cemetery. Funeral services were conducted at the family residence Friday afternoon by Rev. H. A. Church.

"Tunnicliffe," The Yates Center News (Yates Center, Kansas), 15 January 1909, page 5; digital images, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 22 January 2020).

Using a narrative report produced by RootsMagic, ChatGPT produced the following narrative about Susan Mentzer and her husband, Charles

Susan May Mentzer was born on **February 18, 1873**, near Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas, to **George Mentzer** and **Emilie Minnick**. She grew up in Woodson County, where she became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at the age of eighteen. Susan lived with her family in Center Township, Woodson County, and was active in her local community. In 1891, she became a confirmed member of the church and continued to reside in the area until her marriage.

On **September 29, 1902**, Susan married **Charles Edward Tunnicliff** in Fort Morgan, Colorado. Charles was born on **September 26, 1874**, in Page County, Iowa. After their marriage, the couple moved to **Shenandoah, Iowa**, where they would establish their home.

Susan passed away unexpectedly on **January 6, 1909**, at the age of 35, in Shenandoah. She left behind her grieving husband, her father George, mother Emilie, one sister, and six brothers. Her death was a significant loss to both her family and community. Susan's body was brought back to Yates Center, Kansas, for burial, where a funeral service was held at the family residence. She was laid to rest in **Yates Center Cemetery**.

Charles continued to live in Shenandoah after Susan's death. He registered for the World War I draft on **September 12, 1918**. He lived to be 89 years old, passing away on **December 26, 1963**. Charles was buried in **Rose Hill Cemetery** in Shenandoah, Iowa, near the place where they had lived.

Below is the RootsMagic report and the sources used:

. **Susan May Mentzer** was born on 18 Feb 1873 in Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas.¹[See page](#).

She was born on 28 Feb 1873 in Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas.²[See page](#).⁷[See page](#).

She was the child of George Mentzer and Emiline Minnick.⁶[See page](#).⁸[See page](#).¹⁰[See page](#).

Susan lived in Center Township, Woodson County, Kansas on 11 Jun 1880.¹¹[See page](#). Susan was listed as the 6 year old daughter of Geo Mentzer. Susan was born in Kansas.

She lived a 12 year old female born KS and was listed as G. Mentzer in Center Township, Woodson County, Kansas on 1 Mar 1885.¹²[See page](#).

In 1891, she was a member in Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas.⁴[See page](#).

Susan lived a 21 year old female born Kansas and was listed as Susan Mentzer in Center Township, Woodson County, Kansas on 1 Jul 1895.¹³[See page](#).

She lived in Center Township, Woodson County, Kansas on 26 Jun 1900.¹⁴[See page](#). Susan M Mentzer was listed as the daughter of George Mentzer on the 1900 census. According to the census, Susan M was born Feb 1873 in Kansas.

She lived in Sheanandoah, Page County, Iowa after 29 Sep 1902.¹⁵[See page](#).

Susan died on 6 Jan 1909 at the age of 35 in Sheanandoah, Page County, Iowa.¹[See page](#).³[See page](#).⁵[See page](#).⁸[See page](#).¹⁶[See page](#).²¹[See page](#).

She was buried after 6 Jan 1909 at Yates Center Cemetery in Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas.¹[See page](#).³[See page](#).⁵[See page](#).¹⁶[See page](#).

Susan May Mentzer and Charles Edward Tunnicliff were married on 29 Sep 1902 in Fort Morgan, Morgan, Colorado, United States.¹[See page](#).¹⁵[See page](#).²²[See page](#).²⁵[See page](#).

Charles Edward Tunnicliff was born on 26 Sep 1874 in Page, Iowa, United States.²⁶[See page](#).²⁷[See page](#).

He lived in Sheanandoah, Page County, Iowa after 29 Sep 1902.¹⁵[See page](#).

He registered for the military draft on 12 Sep 1918 in Shenandoah, Page, Iowa, United States.²⁸[See page](#).

Charles lived in Grant Township, Page, Iowa, United States in 1920.²⁹[See page](#).

He died on 26 Dec 1963 at the age of 89 in Sheanandoah, Page County, Iowa.²⁶[See page](#).

He was buried at Rose Hill Cemetery in Sheanandoah, Page County, Iowa.²⁶ See page .

ENDNOTES:

1. "Tunnicliffe," The Yates Center News (Yates Center, Kansas), 15 January 1909, page 5; digital images, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 22 January 2020).
2. , Center drive, east of gazebo by road (Doc. #: Mentzer.KS.001), Yates Center Cemetery, , .
3. , (Doc. #: Mentzer.KS.007), .
4. , Obituary Clipping (N.p.: saved by Mrs. Pauline Briles, n.d.), [Page].
5. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online April 2017), memorial for Susie May Mentzer Tunnicliff (1873-1909), Find a Grave Memorial no. #67218389, created by RisingSun, citing Yates Center Cemetery, Yates Center, Woodson, Kansas, United States; accompanying photograph by RisingSun, Susie May Mentzer Tunnicliff.
6. George Mentzer (Company C, 24th Regiment Massachuses Infantry), pension no. WC 741.913, Case FIles of Approved Pension Applications, 1861-1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files, Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
7. Mentzer, George, Family Bible of Emeline Minnick Mentzer (no place: no publisher, no date); Doris Ryan, Yates Center, KS, Susan May Mentzer born Feb 28 1873 Woodson Co., Kansas
8. "Obituary – Mentzer," The Yates Center News (Yates Center, Kansas), 26 January 1912, image 4; digital images, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed onlnie August 2018).
9. , "The George Mentzer Family," In the Beginning, Woodson County Historical Society, 3 No. 11 (July 1970): p. 9-12.
10. History of Allen and Woodson Counties Kansas (Iola, Kansas: Iola Register, Printers and Binders, 1901), page 712; digital images, Ancestry.com, <http://www.ancestry.com> See <http://www.ancestry.com/>. viewed online 3 September 2023.
11. 1880 U.S. Census, Center Township, Woodson County, Kansas, population schedule, Center Township, Woodson County, Kansas, ED 56, Page 9, Image 3 of 9, household 97, Geo Mentzer; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online November 2017); NARA microfilm publication T9
12. 1885 Kansas Census, Neosho County, State Census, Center Township, Woodson County, Kansas, page 1, Image 1 of 31, line 25, George Mentzer; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online August 2018); Kansas State Historical Society
13. 1895 Kansas State Census, Woodson County Kansas, Kansas State Census, Center Township, Woodson County, Kansas, page 8 (image 12 of 51), Image 12 of 51, Household 5, Geo Mentzer; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online June 2017); Kansas State Historical Society
14. 1900 U.S. Census, North Township, Woodson County, Kansas, population schedule, Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas, ED 184, sheet 21B, Image 42 of 46, household 464, George Mentzer; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online November 2017); FHL microfilm: 1240503

15. "Yates Center News", (Yates Center, Kansas), to (), "Married," 10 Oct. 1902, page 5, column 2 (Doc. #: Mentzer.KS.012); ,
16. , (Doc. #: Mentzer.KS.001), .
17. Mentzer, George, Family Bible of Emeline Minnick Mentzer (no place: no publisher, no date); Doris Ryan, Yates Center, KS, Susie May Mentzer Tunnicliff passed away Jan 6 1909 age 35
18. "Died – Mentzer," undated clipping, 1927, from unidentified newspaper; Crawford Family Papers, saved by Pauline Briles and passed down to Marcia Philbrick; privately held 2021 by Marcia Crawford Philbrick, 803 N. 8th, Seneca, KS 66538. likely from Yates Center newspaper.
19. "Obituary – Fred Mentzer", Yates Center News, (Yates Center, Kansas), 27 May 1943, page 8, photocopy Y37; Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.
20. Death notice, Yates Center Argus (Yates Center, Kansas), 8 January 1909, page 4; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 19 October 2024).
21. "Tunnicliff," Woodson County Advocate (Yates Center, Kansas), 22 January 1909, page 5; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 19 October 2024).
22. Entry; , (George Mentzer Notebook); in (Yates Center, Kansas: Woodson County Historical Society). CITATION based on TMG Source
23. History of Woodson County Kansas. (Dallas, Texas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1987) "Mentzer, George Family" p. 198-199.
24. "Local News," The Yates Center News (Yates Center, Kansas), 10 October 1902, page 5; digital images, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 13 March 2022).
25. "Colorado, County Marriage Records and State Index, 1862-2006," Ancestry.com (ancestry.com : Fort Morgan, Morgan County, Colorado, viewed online (13 March 2022), Susan B. Mentzer; Colorado Marriages, State Archives, Denver, Colorado.
26. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online May 2017), memorial for Charles Edward Tunnicliff (1874-1963), Find a Grave Memorial no. #121837738, created by DDavis, citing Rose Hill Cemetery, Shenandoah, Page County, Iowa; accompanying photograph by DDavis, Charles Edward Tunnicliff.
27. Iowa, Delayed Birth Records, 1856-1940, Charles Edward Tunnicliff, 26 September 1874; database with images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online May 2017). Original Source: Iowa State Historical Society.
28. "World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," database, Ancestry (Ancestry.com : viewed online May 2017), Charles Edward Tunnicliff.
29. 1920 U.S. Census, Page County, Iowa, population schedule, Ward 3 Shenandoah City, Grant Township, Page County, Iowa, ED 106, Sheet 3B, Image [Image] of [ImageTotal], dwelling 72, Mary E Tunnicliff; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online April 2018); NARA Microfilm Publication T625

Thanks ChatGPT for your help with this blog post!

Saturday Tidbits

As part of Seneca's Oktoberfest celebration, I helped create displays that highlighted the stories of German immigrants who settled in Nemaha County, Kansas. One of the key displays focused on the likely experiences and preparations of the Bernard Rother family, who immigrated to the U.S. aboard the ship *Gera*, arriving in Baltimore in October 1892. The display explored what the family might have packed for their journey, offering a glimpse into the challenges and hopes of immigrants at that time.

- Bernard – 48 years old
 - Born in Wesphalen
 - Farmer
- Wilhemina—45 years old
- Bernard—16 years old
- Henrich—16 years old
- Marie—15 years old
- Minna—13 years old
- Wilhelm—9 years old
- August—7 years old

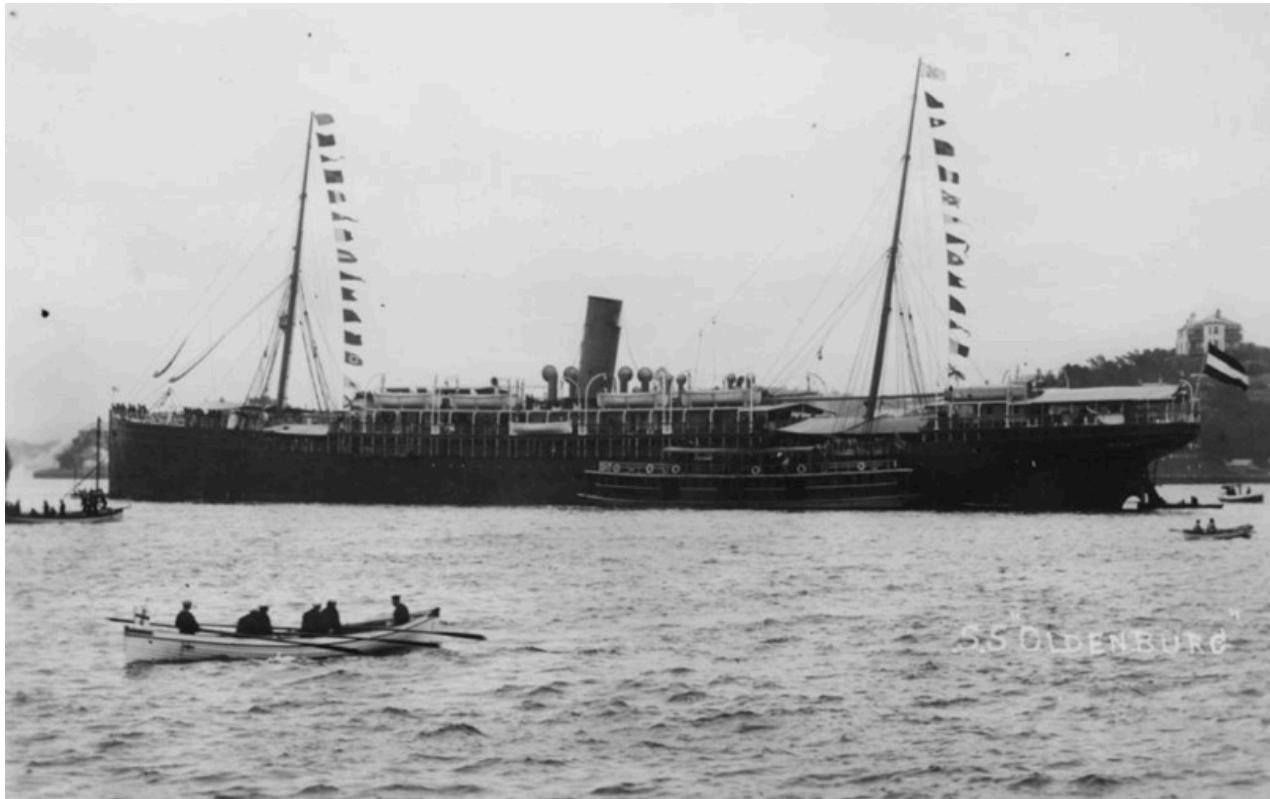
A transcription of August Rother's declaration of naturalization can be found on the [Naturalization Book 1](#). See <https://sites.google.com/site/nemcohis/nemaha-county-genealogy/resources/naturalization-book-1.page> of the Nemaha County History and Genealogy website.

August ROTHERS, farmer aged 21, of Reilly Twp., Nemaha Co., KS, was born on 18 June 1885 in Horndro(ss), Germany. August immigrated from Horndro(ss), Germany aboard the Gera, North German Lloyd. He arrived in Baltimore on 2 Oct 1892. August Rother filed a declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States on 9 Oct 1906 with the district court of Nemaha County. *Nemaha County Kansas Naturalization Book 1*

A search on [Perplexity.ai](#) See <https://www.perplexity.ai/?login-source=oneTapHome>. for details about the ship *Gera* yielded the following information:

The Ship: *Gera*

- **Built by Norddeutscher Lloyd:** The *Gera* was a steamship operated by the Norddeutscher Lloyd company, one of the main transatlantic shipping lines of the 19th century.
- **Capacity:** The *Gera* could carry nearly 2,000 passengers, with over 95% of the capacity allocated to steerage class, which was primarily used by immigrants.
- **Voyage to America:** The *Gera* made regular trips between Germany and the United States. In 1892, it departed from Bremen and arrived in Baltimore, carrying the Rother family and other immigrants.
- **Faster, More Reliable Travel:** As a steamship, the *Gera* offered faster and more predictable voyages than older sailing vessels.



Given that the Rother family likely traveled in steerage class, I used Perplexity.ai to explore what that experience might have been like, uncovering the following information:

Conditions in Steerage

- **Crowded and Cramped Quarters:** Steerage passengers, like the Rother family, were packed into large dormitory-style rooms with little privacy or personal space. Up to 1,901 steerage passengers shared these tight quarters.
- **Basic Sleeping Arrangements:** Passengers slept in bunk beds with straw mattresses, often in unsanitary conditions. They had to provide their own bedding.
- **Poor Ventilation:** During rough weather, the hatches were closed, making the air inside unbearable and contributing to health concerns.
- **Minimal Personal Space:** Each passenger's belongings had to fit in a single trunk or bag that could be stored in their bunk. Space for personal items was very limited.

Food and Meals

- **Simple, Basic Diet:** Steerage passengers were served three meals a day, typically consisting of bread, soup, potatoes, and sometimes eggs or low-quality meat. Food was often served from communal kettles.
- **Poor Quality:** The food provided to steerage passengers was described as "miserable" and not sanitary, adding to the discomfort of the voyage.

Journey Duration and Arrival

- **Length of Voyage:** The journey from Bremen to Baltimore typically took about two weeks, depending on weather conditions.
- **Arrival in America:** After enduring steerage, the passengers would finally disembark in the United States, where they were inspected and processed by immigration authorities before beginning their new lives.

Sanitation and Health

- **Limited Hygiene Facilities:** Washing and toilet facilities were basic and often inadequate for the large number of passengers. Dishwashing was done with limited access to warm water.
- **Health Concerns:** The lack of sanitation and ventilation often led to the spread of illness among passengers, compounded by the crowded conditions.

The Immigrant Experience

- **Overcoming Hardships:** Despite the harsh conditions in steerage, immigrants like the Rother family endured the journey in hopes of a better life in America. The lack of comfort was offset by the promise of opportunities in the New World.
- **Shared Struggles and Support:** Passengers often bonded over shared struggles, forming small communities within steerage. This mutual support helped them endure the difficult crossing.

Curious about what a family might pack in a trunk for the voyage, I turned to Perplexity.ai to compile a list of likely items.

Clothing and Personal Items

- **Sturdy Work Clothes:** Practical, durable clothes like wool trousers and cotton shirts for men, long skirts and blouses for women.
- **Shoes:** Likely one pair of leather shoes per person, well-worn and durable for the journey.
- **Warm Jackets or Coats:** Essential for colder weather during the transatlantic crossing.
- **Blankets and Bedding:** Personal blankets as steerage passengers had to provide their own bedding.

Practical Items

- **Family Bible and Important Documents:** Including birth certificates, marriage licenses, and possibly a prayer book or hymnal.
- **Photographs and Small Keepsakes:** Items that helped maintain their connection to their homeland.
- **Basic Tools:** If the father was a farmer, they might have brought basic tools essential for starting a new life.
- **Sewing Kit:** Essential for mending clothes during the long voyage and upon arrival.

Food and Provisions

- **Non-Perishable Foods:** Items like dried meats, hard cheeses, bread, dried fruits, and nuts to sustain them during the voyage.
- **Pickled and Preserved Foods:** Sauerkraut and other pickled items for nutrients, especially vitamin C, to avoid scurvy.

Miscellaneous and Personal Hygiene

- **Personal Hygiene Items:** Soap, combs, and perhaps a razor.
- **Small Amount of Currency:** For immediate needs upon arrival in the U.S.
- **Religious Items:** A small crucifix, rosary, or prayer book reflecting the family's faith.

Cultural and Comfort Items

- **Musical Instruments:** If space allowed, perhaps a small, portable instrument like a harmonica.
- **Cookbooks or Recipes:** To maintain traditional German cooking after arriving in America.

Throughout the research for this project, Perplexity.ai was used to answer various questions. The questions, along with the answers and citations, were compiled into a file. [ChatGPT](#) See <https://chatgpt.com/>. then extracted the citations from this file to create a comprehensive master list.

Here's a compiled list of the citations from your notes:

1. https://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1288&context=uhp_theses See https://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1288&context=uhp_theses.
2. https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Germany_Emigration_and_Immigration
3. https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/US_Immigration_Passenger_Arrival_Records
4. <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/haventohome/haven-century.html>
5. <https://www.galiziengermandescendants.org/cms/en/?id=24&view=article> See <https://www.galiziengermandescendants.org/cms/en/?id=24&view=article>.
6. <https://www.statueofliberty.org/discover/passenger-ship-search/>
7. <https://www.archives.gov/nyc/finding-aids/passenger-lists.html>
8. <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9780842026710/Germans-to-America-Nov.-2-1891-May-31-1892-Lists-of-Passengers-Arriving-at-U.S.-Ports-Volume-62>
9. <https://www.aspeers.com/sites/default/files/pdf/richter.pdf>
10. <https://thelibrary.org/loclist/periodicals/ozarkswatch/ow303f.htm>
11. <https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=6829&context=td> See <https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=6829&context=td>.
12. <https://likewolf.com/german-american-food-tradition-of-good-taste>
13. <https://www.salinehistory.org/german-cooking>
14. <https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/food-and-nutrition>
15. <https://www.ggarchives.com/OceanTravel/Steerage/ConditionsInSteerageThenAndNow-1913.html>
16. http://www2.hsp.org/exhibits/Balch%20resources/destinationusa/html/body_1steerage.html
17. <https://oceancrossersblog.wordpress.com/2018/02/11/the-steerage-experience/>
18. <http://www.norwayheritage.com/steerage.htm>
19. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelm_II
20. <http://www.nausa.uni-oldenburg.de/3erp1e.htm>
21. <https://deproots.family/up/GeraVessel.htm>
22. <https://www.ggarchives.com/OceanTravel/Passengers/NorthGermanLloyd/index.html>
23. <https://www.ggarchives.com/OceanTravel/VintageMenus/CruiseLine/NorthGermanLloyd.html>
24. <https://vinceparrillo.com/2014/05/15>true-immigrant-tales-steerage-challenges-in-getting-fed/>
25. <https://www.swedishfinnhistoricalssociety.org/a-lady-traveling-steerage/>
26. <https://www.many-roads.com/2013/09/06/how-i-came-over-from-zeyer-germany/>
27. <http://genemaas.net/ships/ships.htm>
28. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norddeutscher_Lloyd
29. <https://immigrationtounitedstates.org/538-hamburg-amerika-line.html>
30. <https://www.ggarchives.com/OceanTravel/Passage/ContractsByYear-1890s.html>
31. <https://loyolanotredamelib.org/php/report05/articles/pdfs/Report48-04-Fessenden-Norddeutscher-Lloyd-and-Baltimore.pdf>
32. <https://www.theshipslist.com/ships/fares/fares1894.shtml>
33. <https://libraryguides.missouri.edu/pricesandwages/1890-1899>

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

Calling all [Genea-Musings](#) See <https://www.geneamusings.com/>. Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Come on, everybody, join in and accept the mission and execute it with precision.

1) Form a research question and ask an Artificial Intelligence agent to create a genealogy research plan for you.

The first step of this process is one that I don't do well: forming a research question. Thus, I sought some help with how to write a good research question.

I found Family History Fanatics blog post, [What Is Your Research Question](#) See [https://www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/quality-research-question..](https://www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/quality-research-question/), a big help. When I asked Perplexity 'how do I write a good genealogy research question', I got a detailed answer along with prompts to expand on the answer.

To write a good genealogy research question, follow these guidelines:

Be Specific and Focused

A quality research question should:

- Identify a unique individual in time and place
- Be answerable with available records and resources
- Have a clear objective

For example, instead of asking "Who were Thomas Mitchell's parents?", a better question would be:

"Who were the parents of Thomas Carroll Mitchell who died in Montgomery County, Missouri on 29 April 1914?"[1]

This specifies the exact Thomas Mitchell you're researching and provides key details to guide your search.

Include Known Information

Incorporate relevant known facts about the person or family to narrow the scope:

- Full names
- Dates of important events (birth, marriage, death)
- Locations
- Names of spouses, children, or other relatives

For instance:

“What is the birth date and place of Christian Christopher Hoppe, who married Anna Margaretha Kalsberger on 12 April 1859 in Franklin County, Ohio, and father of Christian, Marguerite, and Anna Hoppe?”[2]

Focus on Specific Types of Information

Common types of genealogy research questions include:

- When and where events occurred
- Family relationships (parents, spouses, children)
- Biographical details

Examples:

- “When did Delbert Hanks, of Altus, Oklahoma, die and where was he buried?”
- “Who was the first wife of Edward T. Rang of Akron, Summit County, Ohio, and when did they marry?”
- “Did William Townsend serve in the Civil War?”[2]

Consider Available Resources

Ensure your question can be answered using records and resources you can access. Focus on official records like:

- Census records
- Vital records (birth, marriage, death certificates)
- Military records
- Land records
- Newspaper archives[3]

Refine as You Research

As you gather information, you may need to adjust your question or generate new ones. Start with broader questions and narrow them down as you learn more details about your ancestors.

By following these guidelines, you’ll create focused research questions that guide your genealogical investigations effectively and help you break through brick walls in your family history research.

Citations:

- [1] <https://genealogypants.com/2023/05/31/having-a-good-research-question/>
- [2] <https://www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/quality-research-question>
- [3] <https://familytreemagazine.com/research/how-to-form-effective-genealogy-research-questions/>
- [4] <https://treemily.com/blog/family-history-questions/>
- [5] <https://familylocket.com/research-like-a-pro-part-1-whats-your-question/>
- [6] <https://libguides.nypl.org/genealogy/gettingstarted/researchstrategies>
- [7] <https://bcgcertification.org/ten-minute-methodology-how-to-ask-good-research-questions/>
- [8] <https://reclaimingkin.com/research-questions/>

What are some common pitfalls when writing genealogy research questions +

How can I ensure my genealogy research question is not too broad or too narrow +

What specific details should I include in a genealogy research question to make it effective +

How do I determine the best resources to use for my genealogy research question +

Can you provide examples of well-crafted genealogy research questions +

Below are some of the ‘simple’ research questions that I’d like to ask:

- Who are the parents of James Crawford (1772-1854) who married Sally (Smith) Duggins in 1799 in Garrard county, Kentucky?
- What happened to the Hiram M. Currey who resided in Peoria county, Illinois in the 1840s. In 1844, he was named as a school trustee in Woodford county, Illinois. His stepson, Harris Whitaker also disappears from records about this same time.
- Where did Hiram Mirick Currey die. He resigned as treasurer of Ohio in 1820 and is named in several court cases in Ohio after that concerning his time in office. He was the executor of the estate of Lemuel Lane in 1830 and may have been living in Tippecanoe county, Indiana in 1830.

But the question I’m going to use would be the following:

Who is the father of Salley Smith, whose mother Ann Shoemaker, gave consent for her marriage to Alexander Duggins, Jr. in 1788 in Amherst county Virginia. Alexander and Salley were the parents of Henry Duggins (1788-1852) and William A. Duggins (1794-1872). Alexander died before 1799 when Salley married James Crawford in Garrard County, Kentucky.

Like Randy, I asked Perplexity for help.

Please form a genealogy research plan and share it based on the following research question: Who is the father of Salley Smith, whose mother Ann Shoemaker, gave consent for her marriage to Alexander Duggins, Jr. in 1788 in Amherst county Virginia. Alexander and Salley were the parents of Henry Duggins (1788-1852) and William A. Duggins (1794-1872). Alexander died before 1799 when Salley married James Crawford in Garrard County, Kentucky. Salley and James, along with Salley's sons Henry and William, migrated to Preble County, Ohio from Kentucky.

To research the father of Salley Smith, I would propose the following genealogy research plan:

1. Gather Known Information

First, let's summarize the known facts:

- Salley Smith married Alexander Duggins Jr. in 1788 in Amherst County, Virginia
- Salley's mother was Ann Shoemaker, who gave consent for the marriage
- Salley and Alexander had two known sons:
 - Henry Duggins (1788-1852)
 - William A. Duggins (1794-1872)
- Alexander Duggins Jr. died before 1799
- Salley remarried to James Crawford in 1799 in Garrard County, Kentucky
- Salley, James, and Salley's sons later migrated to Preble County, Ohio

2. Research in Amherst County, Virginia

Search Marriage Records

- Look for the 1788 marriage record of Salley Smith and Alexander Duggins Jr.
- Check for any additional information about Salley's parents

Examine Land and Tax Records

- Search for Smith and Shoemaker families in Amherst County
- Look for potential father candidates among Smith landowners

Investigate Probate Records

- Search for wills or estate records of Smith men who died between 1770-1788
- Look for mentions of Salley or Ann Shoemaker

3. Explore Shoemaker Family Connections

Research Ann Shoemaker's Family

- Look for marriage records of Ann Shoemaker
- Search for Shoemaker family wills and probate records

- Investigate Shoemaker land records for possible connections to Smith families

4. Expand Search to Neighboring Counties

Investigate Surrounding Virginia Counties

- Extend the search to counties adjacent to Amherst, such as Bedford, Campbell, and Nelson
- Look for Smith and Shoemaker families in these areas

5. DNA Testing and Analysis

Conduct DNA Testing

- Encourage descendants of Salley Smith to take DNA tests
- Look for matches with Smith surnames in Virginia

Analyze DNA Results

- Use genetic genealogy techniques to identify potential Smith ancestors
- Build out family trees of DNA matches to find common ancestors

6. Research Migration Patterns

Trace Family Movements

- Investigate the migration route from Virginia to Kentucky and then to Ohio
- Look for other families who followed similar migration patterns

7. Examine Historical Context

Study Local History

- Research the social and economic conditions in Amherst County in the late 18th century
- Look for events that might have influenced family movements or relationships

By systematically working through these steps, we can increase the chances of identifying Salley Smith's father and expanding our understanding of her family history.

Citations:

- [1] <https://southeastohiohistory.org/genealogy-center-library/>
- [2] https://www.reddit.com/r/takecareofmayaonnetflix/comments/172vs8g/what_about_the_other_families_allegations_about/
- [3] <https://www.fox13news.com/news/take-care-of-maya-trial-dr-sally-smith-to-testify-for-the-defense-in-220m-case>
- [4] https://www.reddit.com/r/takecareofmayaonnetflix/comments/17ynl0e/why_is_nothing_being_done_a_bout_sally_smith/
- [5] <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Smith-185252>
- [6] <https://www.theoccasionalgenealogist.com/2020/06/free-genealogy-help-research-planning.html>
- [7] <https://www.smithsworldwide.org/tng/familygroup.php?familyID=F33112&tree=tree1> See

[https://www.smithsworldwide.org/tng/familygroup.php?familyID=F33112&tree=tree1.](https://www.smithsworldwide.org/tng/familygroup.php?familyID=F33112&tree=tree1)

[8] <https://www.runner-genealogy.com/index.php?surname=x=Smith>

Again, there are more questions that can be asked.

What records are available for marriages in Amherst County, Virginia during the late 18th century +

Are there any historical documents or records of Salley Smith's family in Garrard County, Kentucky +

How can I access the genealogical records of Preble County, Ohio from the early 19th century +

What are the best resources for tracing family migrations from Virginia to Kentucky and then to Ohio +

Are there any notable historical events or records in Amherst County, Virginia that might help identify Salley Smith's father +

For a ‘follow-up’ question, I asked about resources for Amherst county, Virginia.

what historical, genealogical and/or biographical records are there for Amherst county, Virginia that would help identify this Smith family?

Based on the search results and the query, there are several key resources available for researching the Smith family in Amherst County, Virginia in the late 18th century:

1. Marriage Records:

The “Marriage Bonds and Other Marriage Records of Amherst County, Virginia 1763-1800” compiled by William Montgomery Sweeny is a crucial resource. This volume contains:

- Names of couples
- Marriage dates
- Surety information
- Consent details

It covers the exact time period needed (1788) and is arranged alphabetically by men’s names with an index for women’s names[2].

2. County Court Records:

The Amherst County Clerk of the Circuit Court has various records dating back to the county’s formation in 1761, including:

- Marriage records from 1763
- Land records from 1761
- Probate records from 1761

- Court records from 1761[1]

2. Tax Records:

The 1783 Amherst County Tax Lists are mentioned as being available, which could help identify Smith families in the area[1].

3. Land Records:

Examining land records from 1761 onward could help identify potential Smith family members and their properties[1].

4. Probate Records:

Wills and estate records from 1761 onward may provide information on Smith family relationships and property[1].

5. Local Historical Societies:

The Amherst County Museum & Historical Society may have additional resources or local knowledge about Smith families in the area[1].

6. Online Databases:

Several online resources are mentioned that may contain relevant records:

- USGenWeb Archives for Amherst County
- Virginia Data Collection on Ancestry.com
- FamilySearch's United States Research Wiki[1]

To research the Smith family effectively, I would recommend:

1. Start with the Sweeny marriage compilation to find the 1788 marriage record of Salley Smith and Alexander Duggins Jr.
2. Check the original county court records for more details on the marriage and any related documents.
3. Examine tax lists and land records to identify Smith families in Amherst County around that time.
4. Look for probate records of Smith men who died between 1770-1788 for possible mentions of Salley or her mother Ann Shoemaker.
5. Consult with the local historical society for any additional resources or knowledge about Smith families in late 18th century Amherst County.

Citations:

- [1] <https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~tqpeiffer/genealogy/Documents/Locations%20-%20USA/County/Amherst%20Co.,%20VA.htm>
- [2] https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/manuscriptcollection_findingaids/871/
- [3] <https://southeastohiohistory.org/genealogy-center-library/>
- [4] https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Amherst_County,_Virginia_Compiled_Genealogies
- [5] <https://www.smithsworldwide.org/tng/familygroup.php?familyID=F33112&tree=tree1> See <https://www.smithsworldwide.org/tng/familygroup.php?familyID=F33112&tree=tree1>.
- [6] <https://genealogical.com/store/marriage-bonds-and-other-marriage-records-of-amherst-county-virginia-1763-1800/>
- [7] <https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/marriage-records/>
- [8] <https://amherstcountymuseum.org/history.html>

So, how did Perplexity do?

My only issue with the response is in regards to the suggestion to use DNA testing. Sarah Smith Crawford is my 4th great grandmother. I question this response since most genetic genealogists would caution about being able to use autosomal DNA to identify a 5th great grandparent.

In terms of a research plan, I like the response, To research the Smith family effectively, I would recommend, in the follow-up question.

1. Start with the Sweeny marriage compilation to find the 1788 marriage record of Salley Smith and Alexander Duggins Jr.
2. Check the original county court records for more details on the marriage and any related documents.
3. Examine tax lists and land records to identify Smith families in Amherst County around that time.
4. Look for probate records of Smith men who died between 1770-1788 for possible mentions of Salley or her mother Ann Shoemaker.
5. Consult with the local historical society for any additional resources or knowledge about Smith families in late 18th century Amherst County.

Isaac Duggins Deed

Using FamilySearch's Experimental Labs site, an Isaac Duggins deed was uncovered that helps document the relationship between Isaac and his father William N. Duggins.

Preble Deeds 1883-1884, 1884
image 504 of 672

Deeds v. 81-82 1883 1884
Film 564944 DGS 008588022

Book 82 page 324

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS
 That Isaac R Duggins Mary F Duggins his wife
 of the County of Preble and State of Ohio
 in consideration of
 Five Thousand Six hundred Dollars
 to them paid by George W Straw of the aforesaid
 County and State
 the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged , do hereby GRANT , BARGAIN , SELL AND
 CONVEY to the said
 Geo W. Straw
 The following Real Estate Situate in the County of Preble
 State of Ohio and described as follows to wit
 being the west half of the North West Quarter of Section
 Number Ten (10) Township Number seven (7) of range Two
 (2) East containing Eighty acres of land more or less
 and being the Same land conveyed by will to said Isaac
 R Duggins by William N Duggins Deceased and of
 Record in Probate Court Ohio
 and all the Estate, Title and Interest of the said Isaac R Duggins and
 Mary F Duggins his wife
 either in Law or Equity of in and to the said premises ; Together with all the privilges and
 appurtenances to the
 same belonging , and all the rents , issues , and profits thereof ; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the
 same to the only proper use
 of the said George W Straw
 his heirs and assigns forever
 and the said Isaac R Duggins and Mary F Duggins
 who for themselves and for their heirs executors and administrators do hereby
 COVENANT win the said George W Straw
 his heirs and assigns , that they are
 the true and lawful owners of the said premises , and have full power to convey the same ; that the
 title , so conveyed ,
 is CLEAR , FREE AND UNINCUMBERED ; and further that they Will WARRANT AND
 DEFEND the same against all
 claim or claims , of all persons whomsoever Except a Mortgage in favor of

page 325

Dr A A Lovett Calling for (\$ 1 . 100 0 0) Eleven Hundred Dollars
 as follows 1st Mortgage given Mch 27 " 1882 for \$ 500 , due

in five years from the date thereof 2nd Mortgage given
April 26 " 1889 for \$ 600 . and due in three years from
the date thereof said Granter George W Straw assumes and
agrees to pay said Mortgage

IN WITNESS WHEREOF , The said Isaac R Duggins Together with
Mary F Duggins his wife
who hereby releases her right and expectancy of DOWER
in the said premises , have hereunto . set Their hands and seals , this 6th day of
August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty four
Isaac R Duggins
Mary F Duggins

Signed , Sealed and Acknowledged , in presence of us

E. F. M. Marsh

W. B. Marsh

The State of Ohio , County of Preble , SS :

BE IT REMEMBERED , That on the 6 " day of August, in
the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and Eighty four, before me
the subscriber , a Notary Public in and for said County , personally came
Isaac R Duggins and Mary F Duggins

the grantors in the foregoing Deed and acknowledged the signing and sealing thereof to be their
voluntary

act and deed , for the uses and purposes therein mentioned . And the said Mary F Duggins
wife of the said Isaac H Duggins

being examined by me separate and apart from he said husband , and the contents of said Deed
being

by me made known to her as the statute directs, declared that She did voluntarily
sign, seal and acknowledge the same , and that She is still satisfied therewith , as her act and deed ,
for the uses and purposes therein mentioned

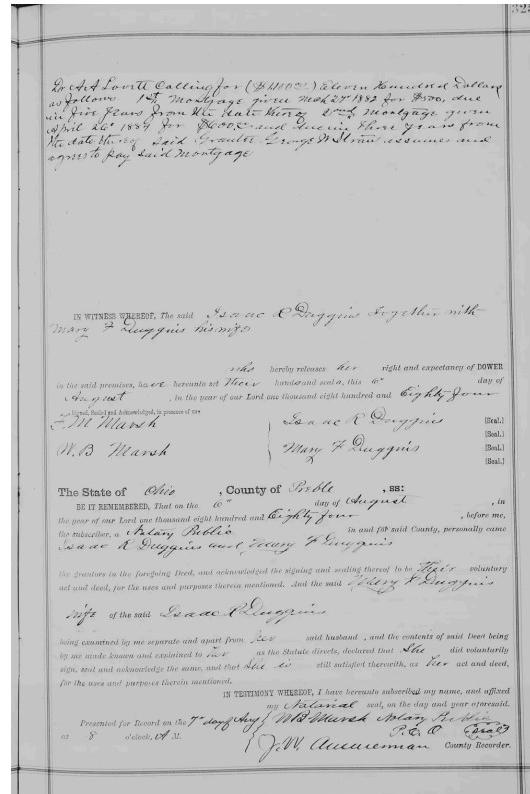
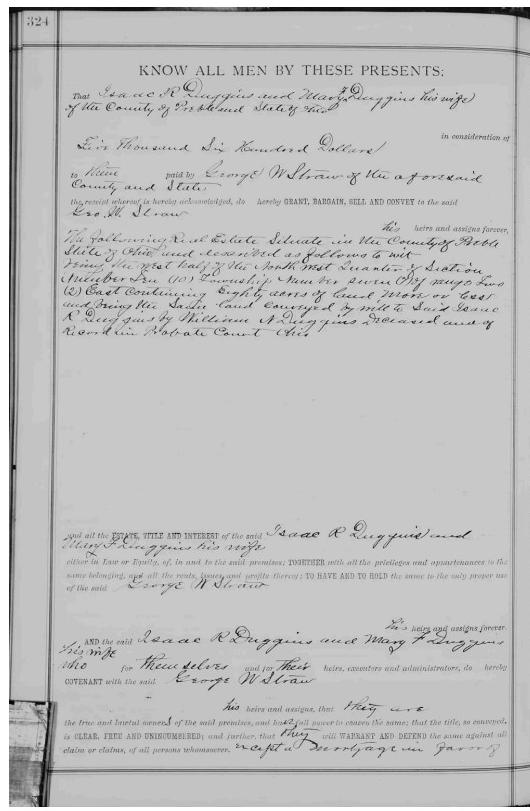
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF , I have hereunto subscribed my name , and affixed
my Notarial seal , on the day and year aforesaid ,

N B Marsh Notary Public

PCO

Presented for Record on the 7th day of Aug at 8 o ' clock , A. M.

J. N . Amereman County Recorder



War News

Register Tuesday!

All young men who have reached 21 since last registration day are to register this Tuesday, July 1, for selective service. It is a duty imposed by the government. Registration office for Nemaha county will be at the regular office of the county service board, across the street from the city hall in Seneca. The office will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Registration cards compare closely to those used the first time. Among points registrants will be asked are telephone number, date and place of birth, name and address of person who will always know the registrant's address.

Courier Tribune (Seneca, KS) 30 June 1941, page 1

Four More to Ft. Leavenworth

Here are four young men who left Seneca Thursday afternoon for the army induction center at Ft. Leavenworth.

Left to right are Belford Duryea of Seneca, John M. Christine of Sabetha, Harold G. Myers, who registered at Elko, Nev., has been visiting at America City and was transferred to this county for induction, and John Charles Baldwin, Seneca. The local board to this morning had no official report as to their acceptance.

This group makes a total of 26 young men accepted from Nemaha county. First man was Arthur Hartrter of Sabetha, who went in January. In February, those accepted were Vernet Randel, Corning; Herman Engel, Wetmore; Lloyd Frederickson, Corning; Edward J. Vogel, Bern; Cyril F. Olberding, Baileyville; Wm. J. Flaherty, Havensville; Elmer Walter Allen, Corning; Wm. R. Rucker, Wetmore; Francis Block, Seneca; Leonard Talley, Centralia; Clarence Hazlett, Onaga; Homer Turner, Oneida; Robert G. Adriance, Seneca.

Robert Goodrich Wilson, salesman, who registered in Nemaha county and was inducted in the east, was also credited against the February quota.

James Severin, Baileyville, and Donald Davis, Sabetha, joined the army in March. Davis is so far the only colored youth from the county.

Richard Moore, Seneca, left April 7. On April 28, Edward Alvin Schmits of Seneca, Nelson G. Beard of Centralia and Vernon Allen Groff, Seneca, reported.

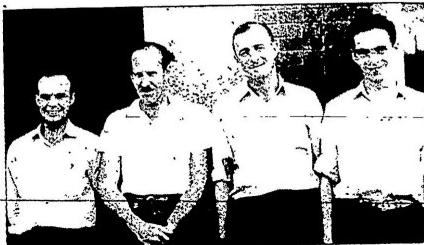
Floyd Downing, who registered in Nemaha county and transferred to Nebraska, is also credited to this county.
Courier Tribune (Seneca, KS) 30 June 1941, page 1

Complete Sending of Questionnaire Blanks

The Nemaha county selective board completed last week the sending of questionnaires to all men who registered last October. Nemaha county had a total of 1703 registrants.

Classification of the men was being slowed this week by shortage of classification cards.
Courier Tribune (Seneca, KS) 30 June 1941, page 1

Four More to Ft. Leavenworth



Here are four young men who left Seneca Thursday afternoon for the army induction center at Ft. Leavenworth.

Left to right are Belford Duryea of Seneca, John M. Christine of Sabetha, Harold G. Myers, who registered at Elko, Nev., has been visiting at America City and was transferred to this county for induction, and John Charles Baldwin, Seneca. The local board to this morning had no official report as to their acceptance.

This group makes a total of 26 young men accepted from Nemaha county. First man was Arthur Harrter, of Sabetha, who went in January. In February, those accepted were Vernet Randal, Corning; Herman Engel, Wetmore; Lloyd Frederickson, Corning; Edward J. Vogel, Bern; Cyril F. Oberding, Baileyville; Wm. J. Flaherty, Havensville; Elmer Walter Allen, Corning; Wm. R. Rucker, Wetmore; Francis Block, Seneca; Leonard Tally, Centralia; Clarence Hazlett, Onaga; Homer Turner, Oneida; Robert G. Adriance, Seneca.

Robert Goodrich Wilson, salesman, who registered in Nemaha county and was inducted in the east, was also credited against the February quota.

James Severin, Baileyville, and Donald Davis, Sabetha, joined the arms in March. Davis is so far the only colored youth from the county.

Richard Moore, Seneca, left April 7. On April 28, Edward Alvin Schmitz of Seneca, Nelson G. Beard of Centralia and Vernon Allen Groff, Seneca, reported.

Floyd Downing, who registered in Nemaha county and transferred to Nebraska, is also credited to this county.

Complete Sending of Questionnaire Blanks

The Nemaha county selective board completed last week the sending of questionnaires to all men who registered last October. Nemaha county had a total of 1703 registrants.

Classification of the men was being slowed this week by shortage of classification cards.

SMOMs Works

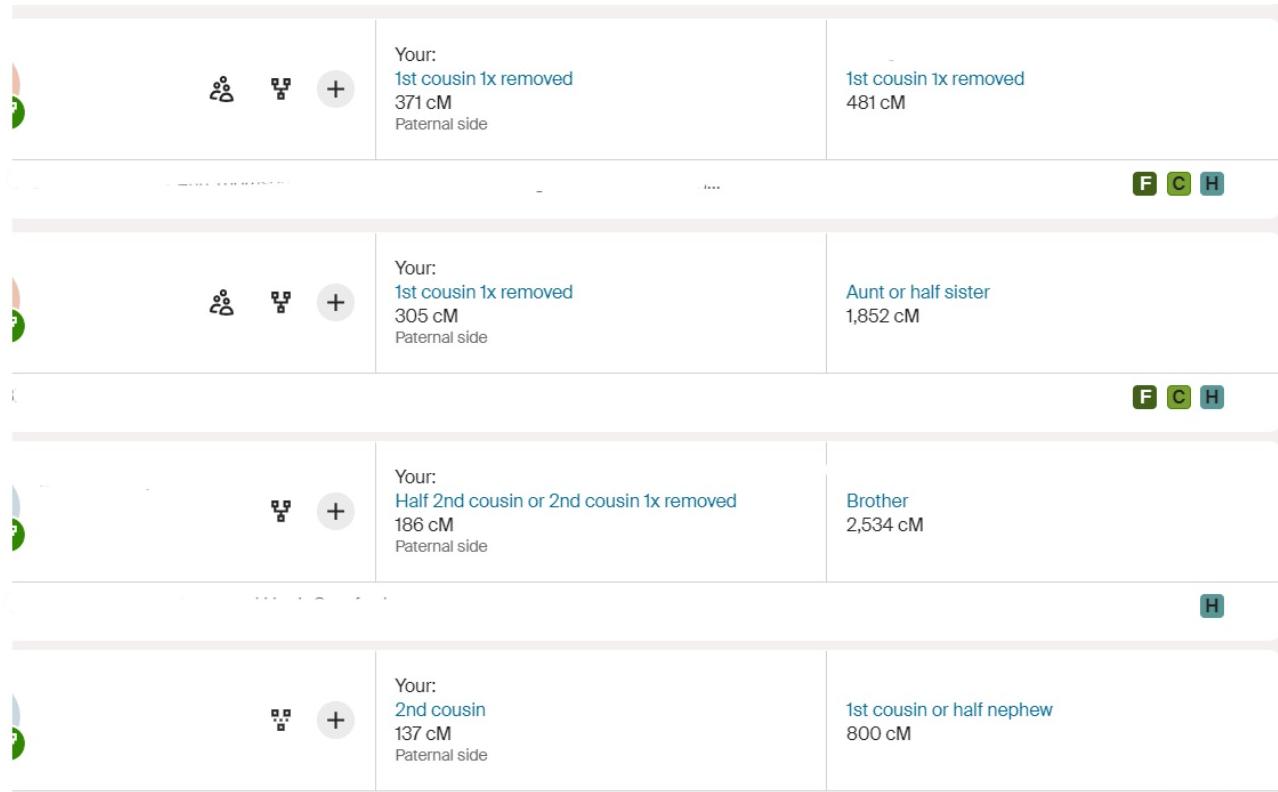
Shared Matches of Matches

Do you ever feel overwhelmed? I'm feeling a bit like that right now after signing up for two of [Your DNA Guide](#). See <http://yourdnaguide.com/>.s courses. While I enjoy the structure of the courses—especially the ability to re-watch videos and complete guided practice (or “homework”)—it can still feel like a lot to take in.

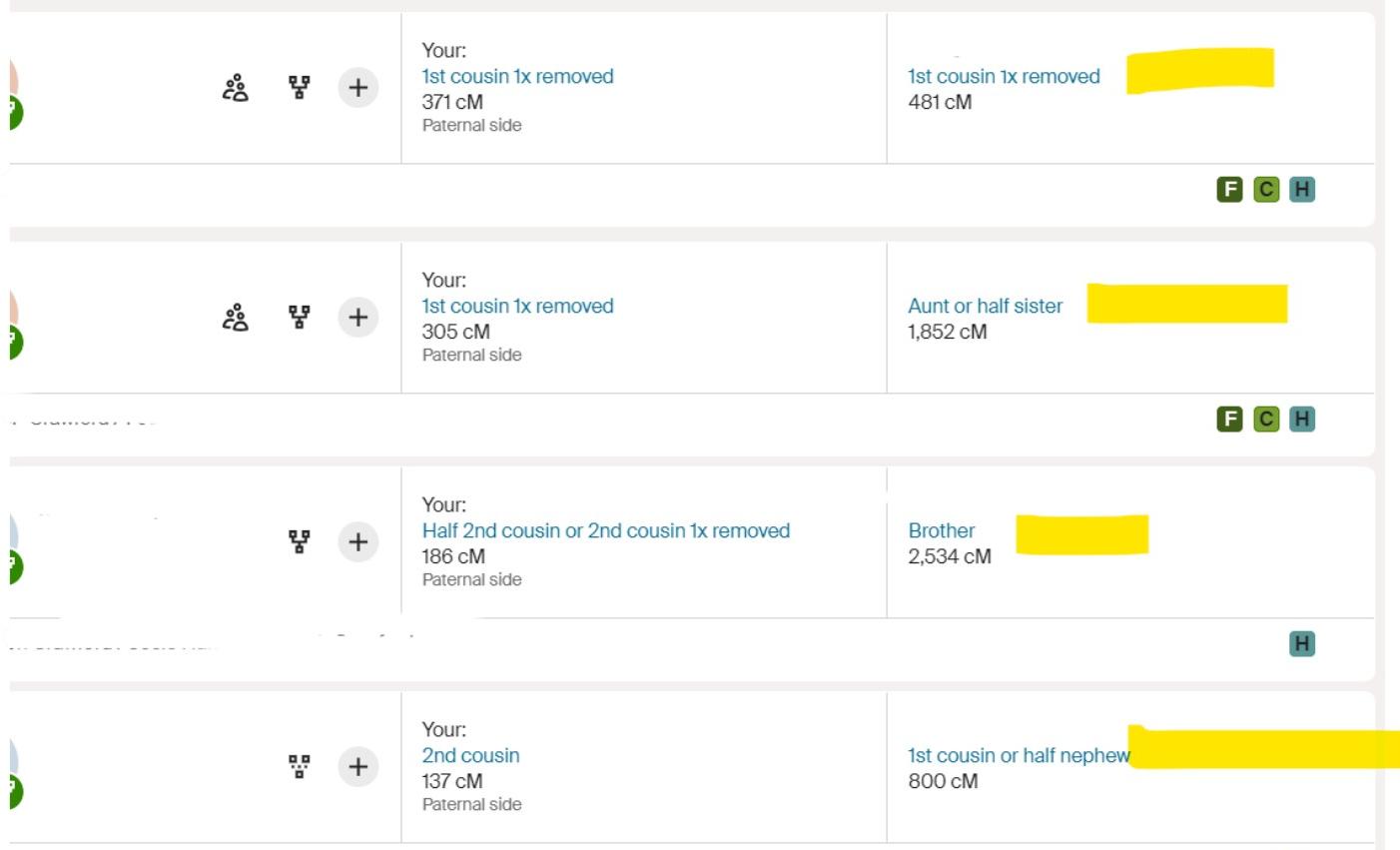
For example, I recently finished the videos for Unit 4 of the **Shared Matches of Matches** course. I understood the steps but had trouble visualizing how they would help. My confusion stemmed from focusing on **what I shared with the match**, rather than **what the match shared with others**.

So, I decided to put the lesson into practice with my own DNA matches. I found a ‘mystery match’ who shares **189 cM** with me. According to Ancestry, this person is likely a **half second cousin** on my dad’s side. When I checked our shared matches, it confirmed the relationship on my dad’s side and suggested that we might share a common ancestor in my great-grandparents.

As I looked through the shared matches, I found a group of four matches who each share more than **400 cM** with my ‘mystery match’.



At first, I didn’t realize it, but Ancestry is actually predicting a relationship between my ‘mystery match’ and our shared matches.



Even though my ‘mystery match’ used initials instead of a full name, the information from our shared matches allowed me to identify them as someone already in my genealogy file. This was a true ‘Aha!’ moment—not only did I grasp the process, but I could also clearly see how it could help with other, more distant DNA matches.

Now, I just need to finish watching the remaining videos and complete the homework so I can learn how to properly log the steps and tackle more ‘mystery matches.’

Piecing Together a Family

Do you conduct descendants research? If so, do you use the FamilySearch tree or other genealogical platforms as your starting point? I've been researching the descendants of my 4th great-grandmother, Sarah Smith, through her first husband, Alexander Duggins. I often rely on the FamilySearch tree to structure a family before documenting it.

Recently, I encountered a dilemma while researching Victor Duggins, Sarah's great-grandson. According to the FamilySearch tree, Victor had four children:

- Leroy Ellsworth Duggins(1905-1951)
- Eva Nola Duggins(1907-1997)
- Lloyd Elmer Duggins (1908-1962)
- Alma Leona Duggins (1911-1987)

The 1910 census for Preble county, Ohio shows Victor with his first wife, Jennie, and their children.

		Leonard	Son	M W 11 8		Ohio
86	89	Duggins Victor E.	Head	M W 25 M 6		Ohio
		Jennie M	Wife	F W 23 M 6 3 3		Ohio
		Roy E.	Son	M W 5 8		Ohio
		Eva N.	Daughter	F W 3 8		Ohio
		Lloyd E.	Son	M W 18 8		Ohio
07	01	M W 00 00	A 11	M W 00 00 8		Ohio

However, by the 1920 census, Victor is listed with his second wife, and only three children—Leroy, Eva, and Lloyd—are mentioned.

20		Harry	Son	M W 46 52		Ohio
21	922 196 207	Duggins' First E.	Head	F M W 35 m		Ohio
22		Cora	Wife	F W 26 m		Ohio
23		Le Roy	Son	M W 14 8		Ohio
24		Eva	Daughter	F W 12 8		Ohio
25		Lloyd	Son	M W 10 8		Ohio
old	11 11 00		A 10	M W 00 00 8		Ohio

Alma, who would have been about nine years old, is conspicuously absent from the 1920 record, raising questions about the accuracy of the tree.

To resolve this discrepancy, additional records are essential to confirm Alma's relationship with her parents or siblings. Jennie's 1912 obituary states that she was the mother of four children, suggesting Alma, born in 1911, could indeed belong to this family despite her absence in the 1920 census.

The body of Mrs. Jennie Duggins, wife of Lurton Duggins, of Sugar Valley, who died of tuberculosis at the home of her mother, Mrs. Lou Burkett, in Baldwin, Mich., arrived in Eaton Sunday. The funeral was held Sunday afternoon at the Christian church, conducted by the Rev. H. A. Smith, of Dayton, and the burial was made in Mound Hill cemetery. Mrs. Duggins is survived by four small children, besides her husband and many other relatives.

Alma's obituary names Eva Doty as a sister.

Alma Leona Doty

MILTON — Alma Leona Doty, 76, 108 E. Walnut St., died Thursday afternoon at her home of an apparent heart attack.

She was a native of Eaton, Ohio, and had lived in the Bentonville area for more than 25 years. She had lived in Avon Park, Fla., for several years, spending the summers in the Milton area. She was a retired store clerk, having worked in the Danner Variety Store in Cambridge City, in the late 1950s and early '60s. She was a member of the Christian Church and the Grange, both at Avon Park, and was a volunteer at Walker Memorial Hospital there. She was the widow of Robert B. Doty.

Survivors include three sons, Joe E., and Fred A., both of R.R. 1, Cambridge City, and Thomas H. of Mount Pulaski, Ill.; one sister, Eva Nola Doty of Lakeland, Fla.; 19 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren.

Funeral service for Alma Leona Doty will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14, at Howard & Son Capitol Hill Chapel at Cambridge City, with the Rev. Thomas Waters of Milton Christian Church officiating. Burial will be in Fairmount Cemetery, Camden, Ohio. Friends may call from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association.

This establishes a connection between Alma and her sister, Eva, but does not provide a link between Alma and her brothers, Leroy and Lloyd. Fortunately, Leroy's obituary offers a clearer picture by naming all of his siblings, which helps solidify the connection between Alma and her brothers.

Leroy E. Duggins

EATON. — Leroy E. Duggins, 46-year-old auto mechanic, died in Richmond Sunday night after an illness of one day. He resided at 213 North Walnut street here.

Survivors include the widow, Edith; his father Victor of Troy; two daughters, Mrs. Regina Overholts and Mrs. Janice Worley, both of Eaton; two sons, Everett and Maurice of Eaton; two sisters, Mrs. Eva Weldy of St. Petersburg, Fla., and Mrs. Alma Doty of Cambridge City; one brother, Lloyd of Troy, Ohio, and one grandchild.

Funeral services for Mr. Duggins will be held at Barnes funeral home Thursday at 2 p.m. Burial will be in Mound Hill cemetery.

Friends may call at the funeral home after Wednesday noon.

Leroy E. Duggins

EATON.—Leroy E. Duggins, 46-year-old auto mechanic, died in Richmond Sunday night after an illness of one day. He resided at 213 North Walnut street here.

Survivors include the widow, Edith; his father, Victor of Troy; two daughters, Mrs. Regina Overholts and Mrs. Janice Worley, both of Eaton; two sons, Everett and Maurice of Eaton; two sisters, Mrs. Eva Weldy of St. Petersburg, Fla., and Mrs. Alma Doty of Cambridge City; one brother, Lloyd of Troy, Ohio, and one grandchild.

Funeral services for Mr. Duggins will be held at Barnes funeral home Thursday at 2 p. m. Burial will be in Mound Hill cemetery.

Friends may call at the funeral home after Wednesday noon.

According to the census records, Victor Duggins is shown with only three children: Leroy, Eva, and Lloyd. However, I was able to find multiple obituaries that confirm Alma's connection to her siblings. While my research is not yet exhaustive, this case highlights the importance of consulting a variety of records when documenting a family, rather than relying on just a few sources.